

2008 ALABAMA FOOTBALL

YEARBOOK

BAMAMAG.COM
SUMMER 2008
\$4.95

'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

Rolando McClain

Andre Smith



scout.com

City of Montgomery
**Fourth of July
Riverfront
Celebration**

★ **Friday, July 4th** ★
Riverwalk Amphitheater

- ★ Gates open at 5:00pm ★
- ★ Capitol Sounds Concert Band ★
6:45 - 8:45
- ★ Water Ski Show - 6:00pm ★
- ★ Splash Pad for the kids ★
- ★ Food Vendors ★

Fireworks Spectacular
Sponsored by



WACHOVIA

9:00pm

- ★ Free Parking ★ Free Admission ★
- ★ Coolers Welcome (no glass) ★

For more information,
call 241-2300

The Fourth of July Riverfront Celebration
is sponsored by:

Montgomery Advertiser
montgomeryadvertiser.com



MONTGOMERY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS START WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE.



There's strong. And then there's Army Strong. You taught them right from wrong. You told them they could do anything. Now they want the discipline, leadership training and college benefits that come from being in the U.S. Army. If your son or daughter wants to talk about joining, listen. You just might be proud of what they have to say. Find out more at goarmy.com/for_parents.



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.

Check with your Army Recruiter to see if there are some new bonuses. Do you have what it takes to be Army Strong?

Stop by and see your Army Recruiter.



Summer 2008

Volume 30 • Issue Ten

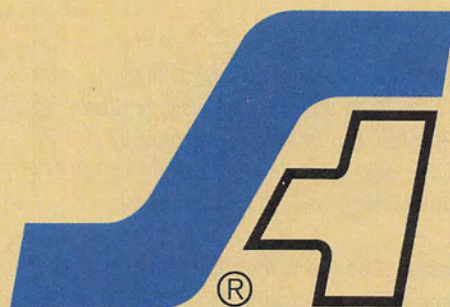
Features

- 8 Overview**
Improved Tide may not have better record
by Kirk McNair
- 12 The Offense**
New coordinator has plenty to work with
by Gentry Estes
- 24 The Defense**
Saban looks for improvement
by Creg Stephenson
- 30 Special Teams**
Some good, some improvement needed
by Cary L. Clark
- 36 The 2008 Crimson Tide**
A look at Alabama's returning players
by Erik Stinnett
- 49 How Much Help?**
Alabama welcomes top freshman class
by Kirk McNair
- 52 Nick Saban**
Tide head coach recruits on cutting edge
by Cary L. Clark
- 55 Top Hands**
Alabama's assistant coaches can recruit
by Andrew Bone
- 58 Bryant-Denny Stadium**
Tide's home made impact with prospects
by Erik Stinnett
- 60 SEC Goes For Three-Peat**
A look at the 2008 SEC football season
by Scout
- 68 Crimson Tide Opponents**
A look at the 12 teams on Bama's schedule
- 74 Prep Prospects**
Saban and company go after the best
by Andrew Bone
- 80 It's Called Tradition**
Alabama football has quite a history
by Kirk McNair

Department

- 6 Letter From Editor**
- 32 2008 Alabama Football Roster**
- 34 Alabama Quick Facts**
- 35 By The Numbers**
- 59 SEC Composite Schedule**
- 79 Football Recruiting Hot List**

Cover featuring Rolando McClain (25), Andre Smith (71) and Coach Nick Saban by Kent Gidley



STATE AUTO[®]

Insurance Companies

AUTO HOME BUSINESS STATEAUTO.COM



State Auto's Home Office in Columbus, Ohio.

Consistent. Strong. Stable.
Since 1921

Letter from the Editor

Dear Fellow Crimson Tide Fans,

January 1 once was a very big day in Alabama football. I worked a lot of important Crimson Tide bowl games on that day. New Year's Day bowl games they are called, although now the biggest of the bowl games, the BCS Championship Game, is a few days after the first. So are some of the other bowl games in many years. Some January 1 bowl games don't have much glitter, but it's usually better than playing earlier.

January 1 is the recognized New Year's Day for us. The solar system doesn't know that. The Sun and planets don't regroup every year as our year is partied out late on December 31.

The Chinese start the Year of the Rat (or whatever) on a different day, and there is a Jewish New Year, and many others. There are school calendars and fiscal years of various starting points.

I have my own personal New Year's Day, usually around September 1. This year it will be August 30, when Alabama opens its football season against Clemson in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. College football doesn't ease into the season with exhibition games like pro sports or a month of patsies like college basketball and baseball. The season opens, almost always with at least a handful of meaningful games, and every game counts if you want to be a contender.

Unlike the real New Year's Day that appears out of nowhere following the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season in December, it seems to take forever for the start of my new year.

Tick.

Tock.

How much longer?

There are football-related events between A-Day and Kickoff. Alabama Coach Nick Saban spent a few weeks touring around to meet and greet with fans and answer some questions. There will be Southeastern Conference media days in late July, when coaches and a few selected players will discuss the upcoming season. There will be pre-season camp, but at Alabama that is guarded like the Manhattan Project, so it's only hearsay.

Doing this yearbook helps me through the dog days as our staff contemplates what might be for Alabama football in the fall. I hope it help fills the void for you. ■

Sincerely,

Kirk McNair
Editor

Vol. 30, Issue 10 (ISSN 0195-0975 USPS 489-470) July, 2008

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE magazine is published monthly, 10 times a year (September-June) by Scout Publishing, LLC 2003 Western Ave, Suite 700, Seattle, WA 98121. Basic subscription rate is \$44.95. Single copy price is \$4.95. SUBSCRIBERS: If the post office alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligations unless we receive a corrected address. POSTMASTER: Please send all change of address forms to: 'Bama, Inside the Crimson Tide 1916 Pike Place, Suite 12-250, Seattle, WA 98101-1097. Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA and additional mailing offices. Please allow three weeks for change of address. Reproduction or use, in whole or in part, of editorial or graphic content in any manner is strictly prohibited without the prior express written permission of Scout Publishing. All letters to 'BAMA magazine will be treated as intended for publication and are subject to 'BAMA magazine's unrestricted right to edit. Publisher is not responsible for any unsolicited art, photographs or manuscripts. 'BAMA magazine is an independent source of news and features relating to Alabama athletic programs. Scout Publishing, 'BAMA magazine and their officers, directors and stockholders are not authorized, sponsored or sanctioned by any university, athletic conference, or athletic governing body or any of their agencies. © 2008 Scout Publishing, LLC and 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE magazine. All rights reserved.



Scout Publishing, LLC.

SVP/GM
Patrick Crumb

Senior Director
Alan McDonald

Director of Online Marketing &
Network Development
Joel Cox

Advertising & Sponsorships
Eddie Pauline

Ad Traffic Manager
Mike Dempsey

Director of Online Programming
Scott Kennedy

Photography
Getty Images

Recruiting Editors
Dave Telep

Creative Director
Jay Torrell

Production Manager
Shannon Coffey

Graphic Designer
Garth French

'Bama, Inside The Crimson Tide

Editor
Kirk McNair

Recruiting Reporter
Andrew Bone

Feature Reporters
Erik Stinnett, Greg Stephenson,
Cary L. Clark, Peter Edmund,
Andrew Varble II, Walter Bostock,
Arnold P. Steadham, Scott Latta,
Gentry Estes, Becky Hopf,
Lindsey Laurent, Skip Powers

Photos
Kent Gidley
Barry Fikes
Benjamin Cohen
Butch Dill
Stuart McNair
Cory Johnson
Jessica Smith
Camelle Sizemore

Assistant To Editor
Vera Dowdle

Subscriptions: Order online at bamamag.com
(reduced online rate \$39.95) or call
888-979-0979.

Customer Service: Call 888-979-0979

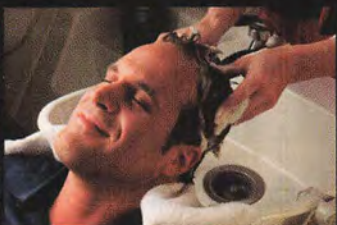
To Advertise in 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE: Contact
Dwight Johnson at Dwight@Scout.com OR
Mitch Green at 1-800-239-9090.

Score a Great Haircut Experience at Sport Clips!

The Sport Clips Signature MVP: Part of Our Championship Haircut Experience!



Precision Haircut



Massaging Shampoo



Steamed Towel Treatment



Upper Back & Neck Massage

- Sports Playing on TVs
- Sports Magazines
- Guy-Smart Stylists
- Massaging Shampoo
- Steamed Towel Treatment
- Open Every Day
- Fun, Sports-Themed Environment
- No Appointments Necessary
- Free Neck Trims

SportClipsSM
HAIRCUTS

GUYSWIN

SportClipsSM
HAIRCUTS

For a location near you or
to explore a unique franchise
opportunity visit our website at

SportClips.com

AN OVERVIEW

Improved Tide might not have better record

A psychological difference in baseball managers and football coaches is the expectation factor. Late in the spring, as baseball prepares to start the season, the managers all believe that their pitchers who threw gopher balls the previous year are now all slinging BBs, batters who couldn't hit a ball through a window pane are now Ruthian. The pennant is in sight.

At the opposite end of the expectations spectrum, football coaches are a pessimistic lot. Prior to the 1966 season, former Alabama Coach Paul Bryant complained that he didn't have a quarterback "unless you count Stabler." As it turned out, Kenny Stabler was able to handle those quarterback duties satisfactorily and Bama went undefeated.

The Crimson Tide continued to run roughshod over the rest of the Southeastern Conference through most of the 1970s, but Bryant came by his worry lines honestly. Prior to the 1978 season, following an 11-1 record and second place national finish in '77, a regional group of sportswriters, known as the SEC Skywriters, was visiting Tuscaloosa and preparing for an address from Bryant.

Jack Hairston, sports editor of the Gainesville Sun, had developed a gravelly voice using the same game plan as Bryant: vocal cords generously lathered with cigarette smoke and whiskey. Before the Tide's famed coach could begin his pre-season evaluation of Bama, Hairston gave a passably good imitation. "I don't think we can win a game," Hairston warned. "And that includes the Sugar Bowl."

As it turned out, that Alabama team won another SEC title, returned to the Sugar Bowl, and defeated Penn State to win the national championship.

Alabama Coach Nick Saban, who claims to have "no expectations," has spent time through the spring and summer

trying to lower any good expectations of Crimson Tide fans.

Suppose for a moment that one doesn't have the willpower of Saban and does think about the level of success Bama might be expected to achieve this year. It's a mind-numbing task, fraught with twists and turns, ups and downs. In other words, something like several games Alabama played in Saban's first season...an up-and-down season.

Will the Crimson Tide be the team that was able to come from behind and win a big game over Arkansas in the final moments, or a team that couldn't beat Louisiana-Monroe? Will it be the team that had the eventual national champions, the LSU Tigers, on the ropes, but couldn't make plays down the stretch to lose and start a four-game losing streak to close out the 2007 season? Will it be the team that manhandled SEC East Champion Tennessee and took powerful Georgia to overtime, or the team that gift-wrapped a victory for Mississippi State?

Will it be a team that can end the six-year losing streak to Auburn?

Saban wants to have players that do their best. If that happens, it's reasonable to think that Alabama will have a better football team in 2008 than the 7-6 squad of 2007. But that doesn't mean it will have a better record than last season's Bama, because the schedule is more difficult.

It is something of an oddity that Alabama opens the

2008 ALABAMA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	SERIES RECORD
Aug. 30	Clemson	Atlanta	UofA leads 11-3
Sept. 6	Tulane	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 26-11-3
Sept. 13	Western Kentucky	Tuscaloosa	First Meeting
Sept. 20	Arkansas	Fayetteville	UofA leads 11-7-0
Sept. 27	Georgia	Athens	UofA leads 35-25-4
Oct. 4	Kentucky	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 33-2-1
Oct. 18	Ole Miss	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 44-9-2
Oct. 25	Tennessee	Knoxville	UofA leads 45-38-7
Nov. 1	Arkansas State	Tuscaloosa (Homecoming)	UofA leads 1-0-0
Nov. 8	LSU	Baton Rouge	UofA leads 43-23-5
Nov. 15	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 72-17-3
Nov. 29	Auburn	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 38-33-1
Dec. 6	SEC Championship	Atlanta	2 wins, 3 losses

Don't Start The Season Without Game Gear From The Locker Room



**Ashworth "A"
Knit**
Also available with
elephant logo
Size: S-XXL



Windshirts
Crimson or Black
\$90⁰⁰



**Ashworth "A"
Knit**
Dri-fit
Size:M-XXL
\$69⁰⁰



True Crimson
Our popular "Elephant
Shirts" in true Crimson and
in Red, White, Heather and
Black 100% Cotton M-XXL
Short Sleeve Knit
\$39⁰⁰



Classic A
Size: 30-46
Trouser - \$65⁰⁰
Walk Shorts - \$55⁰⁰



Vest
Also in khaki;
available with "A"
Size:S-XXL
\$69⁰⁰



Seersucker Shirt
Size:M-XXL
Short Sleeve \$69⁰⁰



Elephant Walk
Crimson-White
Seersucker
with elephant logo
Trousers \$85⁰⁰
Walking Shorts \$69⁵⁰
Sizes 30-44



**All Over
Elephants**
Size:30-46
Trouser - \$129⁰⁰
Walk Shorts - \$110⁰⁰



Caps and Visors
Crimson, white and
khaki
One size fits all
\$15⁰⁰



Game Day
size:30-44
Trouser - \$75⁰⁰
Walk Short - \$59⁰⁰



Ladies All Over
Elephant Skirt
Khaki or
Houndstooth
\$110⁰⁰ Sizes 0-16

All prices plus tax and shipping. Ask about Alabama blazers, available in Crimson and Navy

The Locker Room

Call toll free **1-800-749-0992**

1218 University Boulevard • Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 • www.locker-room.biz



Benjamin Cohen

season against the Clemson Tigers and closes it against the Auburn Tigers. Former Atlanta humorist Lewis Grizzard once explained that "Clemson is nothing but Auburn with a lake."

Clemson is also home to the team expected to win the Atlantic Coast Conference championship, and the Tide will play against those Tigers in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on August 30.

There are three other non-conference games, all in Tuscaloosa. The Louisiana-Monroe debacle of '07 notwithstanding, those are games everyone who has expectations would expect Alabama to win. They are against Tulane, Western Kentucky and Arkansas State.

The real challenge to great expectations for 2008 Alabama is the SEC road schedule. SEC coaches proclaim that every SEC team is good, but some are more good than others. And Alabama's road schedule is against four that usually are good—Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, and LSU. LSU won last year's national championship, Tennessee was SEC Eastern Division champion, Georgia finished in the nation's top five, and Arkansas defeated LSU.

LSU also lost to Kentucky and was not a national championship team for the ages, but the Tigers have more good football players than any other SEC team. And Alabama fans have high expectations because Saban recruited most of those Tigers when he was head coach at LSU.

Auburn at the end of the season is the home game that looms largest. Bama hosts Kentucky, Ole Miss and Mississippi State before ending against Tommy Tuberville's Tigers in Bryant-Denny Stadium. Auburn takes glee in Alabama having never defeated the Tigers in the Tide's stadium. Very few Alabama-Auburn games have been played in Bryant-Denny, but the fact remains that Auburn has won them all.

Perhaps the most convoluted assessment of the state of the Alabama football program came from those who equated the National Football League's evaluation of last year's seniors with the upcoming team. As was much discussed, no 2007 senior Crimson Tide players were selected in the NFL draft. The class that included D.J. Hall, Wallace Gilberry, Simeon Castille, Keith Brown, Matt Caddell, Justin Britt, Darren Mustin and Chris Capps was not attractive to NFL scouts.

It was pointed out that it was the first time since 1970 that Alabama did not have a player drafted. The 1970 Bama team was 6-5-1, similar to last year's 7-6 Crimson Tide. In 1971 Alabama rebounded to an 11-0 regular season and a berth in the national championship game and went on to an unprecedented decade of success.

It is the nature of college football that in most years there will be a number of starting players to be replaced. A simplistic way to look at Bama losses is that those undrafted players won't be difficult to replace. Realistically, if Alabama had better players than those, they would have been playing.

Still, the players who replace the lost performers for the most part will have had a year in the Saban program. And so will those returning, though that doesn't mean that Andre Smith will necessarily be a better left offensive tackle than he was last season when he was the best in the SEC. But many other players should be improved.

And no one is forgetting that Saban and company pulled in a recruiting class judged best in the nation. Some of those newcomers will provide quality depth. Some may even start.

No season goes by that someone doesn't bring up the coaching adage that for every sophomore who starts, a game will be lost. That statement, attributed to former Tennessee coaching legend Robert Neyland, when freshmen were not eligible for competition, has been updated to warn of the dangers of playing first year men.

Experience counts, but skill is a compensating factor. Coaches today seem less reluctant to play young players, particularly at those positions where athleticism is most important. Kickers, wide receivers and defensive backs benefit from experience and time in the weight room, but can often step in more quickly than linemen (particularly offensive linemen) and linebackers. Effective freshmen quarterbacks are not common.

With no disrespect to coaches past or present, all coaches seem to have better success in close proportion to the level of players on the team. Saban and his staff are excellent recruiters and eventually will have the Bama pantry stuffed. That is not yet the case.

There are more than a few positions where there are question marks. Even senior quarterback John Parker Wilson, who will be the starter for the third consecutive year and already owns many passing records and is en route to the rest of them, lacks all-star credentials. Wilson has the burden of a third different quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator in each of his three seasons as a starter. The latest is Jim McElwain, who brings excellent credentials and may be able to help Wilson and the offense eliminate the disastrous turnovers and the maddening inability to finish Red Zone trips with touchdowns.

One area in which Saban has plenty of experience is in building (and rebuilding) a coaching staff. He picks men who work hard in his philosophy.

Winning football teams have to be able to overcome the inevitable injuries that go with the sport. Bama's defensive expectations depend in great part on the possibility of two non-injury losses. Starting strongside linebacker Zeke Knight isn't injured, but he may be ill. Two serious illnesses (one involving heart surgery) in the past three years make his availability extremely doubtful.

Last year Bama was able to weather the extraordinary bad injury luck at tailback because of depth, but the effectiveness of the running game was affected. There are more positions where Alabama cannot afford bad injury luck than there are positions that are depth rich. One player who has had to give up football because of a shoulder injury is senior Charles Hoke, a former tight end (deep position) who had been penciled in as a possible offensive tackle (not a deep position in experienced players).

Another linebacker, two-year starter Prince Hall, is on the thin line of off-the-field issue. It is reasonable to assume that Saban hasn't taken time for anger management courses since the last team transgression of the spring, and the first incident involving a rules violation or bad judgment or failure to perform in academic and citizenship areas is likely to draw wrath.



Benjamin Cohen

Alabama has a full roster of scholarship players. In fact, it is overflowing, more players available than the NCAA law allows. As Saban has mentioned, there is a plan to handle the problem. One part of that plan could be to throw out bad apples. More likely, though, is to adjust the number of incoming players.

An adage has it that a football team makes its greatest improvement between the first and second game. It is also considered fact that a team makes big strides from the first year to the second year in a new coaching situation.

Expect Alabama to be a better football team in 2008 than it was in 2007, but various factors mean the record may not reflect that improvement. The thing to remember is that the Crimson Tide is on the right path to success. ■

THE OFFENSE

New coordinator has plenty to work with

There was an uncertain defense, an experienced quarterback, proven returning talent at wide receiver, and a new offensive coordinator whose brief history was dotted with big point totals.

You could see where this was going.

Hopes for Major Applewhite's first Alabama offense were like few before, with notions of high-flying barrage of passes and points. There were times in 2007 when those wishes actually materialized into fleeting glimpses. Sure, for about one quarter or half, Alabama's offense was stout enough to take over a game, but never consistent enough to do it for an entire 60 minutes.

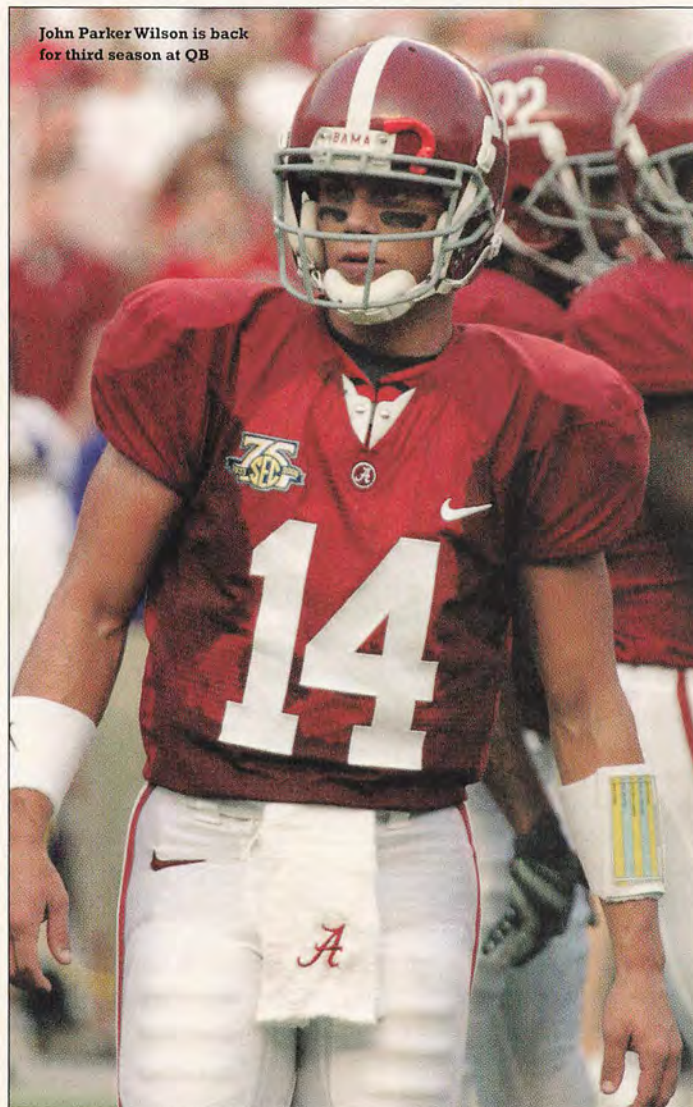
For a variety of reasons, those positive moments dwindled as the year progressed. They essentially disappeared by the time a once-promising regular season met a bitter conclusion. While an overachieving defense improved, the offense worsened amid a late rash of suspensions and injuries to key personnel.

The disparity was alarming. How can a team good enough to pile 75 points on Southeastern Conference title game participants Tennessee and LSU not manage a touchdown at Mississippi State?

How does an offense that posted three touchdowns in the first quarter alone against Houston finish an entire Louisiana-Monroe loss with only two?

Missed opportunities in an underwhelming 17-10 loss in the finale at Auburn were the final rough moments for a sinking ship. Although Alabama rebounded for 27 first-half points against Colorado in the Independence Bowl, the season's story had been told. That high-flying Applewhite offense wasn't a part of it.

Applewhite bolted after one season for his alma mater, taking a step down in title to become running backs coach at Texas. Alabama Coach Nick Saban's search settled on Fresno State's Jim McElwain, who was quarterbacks coach



John Parker Wilson is back
for third season at QB

Stuart McNair

Are You Ready For Some Football?



Join us at the Co-op in supporting community youth activities throughout Alabama. The youth of today are not only the leaders of tomorrow but they could lead us to another national championship.

**Serving the
People of Alabama
and Their Families
Since 1936.**



**For a store near you
visit us at www.alafarm.com**

for the Oakland Raiders before serving last season as offensive coordinator for the Bulldogs, who averaged 32.9 points per game.

Systematically, what will change under McElwain? In all likelihood, not much. It essentially will be Saban's offense for the duration of his tenure, though he has acknowledged subtle tweaks under McElwain. Basically, Saban estimated that 30 per cent would be new in 2008. A professed goal of the McElwain approach is to get the ball to playmakers more often, a list that could immediately feature arriving true freshmen like Julio Jones and Burton Scott.

While the A-Day Game may not be an accurate guide, it revealed an offense more committed to short, accurate passes to move the football. Running backs and tight ends will be utilized more often as pass targets, as Terry Grant was for a long touchdown scamper during the spring game.

And the cupboard is hardly bare for McElwain's arrival. The only real question for Alabama's offense this preseason is at wide receiver. Experience and increased depth return at all other spots, with offensive line and tailback appearing as particular strengths.

QUARTERBACK

In two years directing Alabama's offense, John Parker Wilson has become a polarizing figure among supporters because of his struggles with consistency. The same player who passed for more than 2,700 yards and 17 touchdowns each of the past two seasons was also responsible for especially

Offensive Depth Chart

SPLIT END

Mike McCoy: Primed for a breakout junior year after strong A-Day outing
Brandon Gibson: Another untested youngster in search of playing time
Tarence Farmer: Could be in the mix after moving from defensive back
Chris Jackson: Rookie enrolled a semester early and practiced this spring

FLANKER

Nikita Stover: Proven, but missed most of spring with a hamstring injury
Earl Alexander: Former QB looks the part at 6-foot-4, but is inexperienced
Marquis Maze: Has talent, speed and agility to help after a redshirt year
Julio Jones: All eyes will be on freshman sensation right away

SLOT RECEIVER

Darius Hanks: The in-house star of spring practice should play a large role
Burton Scott: A touted playmaker who could wind up with plenty of touches
Will Oakley: Still fighting off injuries in his senior season

LEFT TACKLE

Andre Smith: One of the nation's best and the team's top NFL prospect
Tyler Love: Hyped freshman could compete for the starting job at right tackle
Barrett Jones: A sharp incoming rookie whose learning curve will be brief

LEFT GUARD

Mike Johnson: Dependable, all-purpose junior who moves from tackle back inside
William Vlachos: Received a bit of playing time as a freshman

CENTER

Antoine Caldwell: Chose one more year, so expect this leader to make the most of it
Evan Cardwell: Proved last season he's a reliable option if Caldwell is moved

RIGHT GUARD

Marlon Davis: Returns from last year's textbook suspension to a starting spot
David Ross: Another spring leaves him closer to a consistent role up front

RIGHT TACKLE

Drew Davis: Saban's biggest surprise this spring hasn't yet locked down the spot
Taylor Pharr: Exited spring as the backup to Davis, but that could change

TIGHT END

Travis McCall: Solid while working with first team during the spring.
Nick Walker: Last year's starter caught 23 passes and now splits time with McCall
Preston Dial: Should receive increased role, especially in short yardage situations

QUARTERBACK

John Parker Wilson: Senior two-year starter remains unquestioned first-string QB
Greg McElroy: Rebounded off early spring struggles for a nice A-Day performance
Nick Fanuzzi: Hasn't yet made a serious push for the No. 2 spot
Star Jackson: The fleet-footed wildcard of the QB rotation could see time as a rookie
Thomas Darrah: Tall walk-on would be capable in case of an emergency

TAILBACK

Glen Coffee: The most complete back of the bunch despite recently repaired shoulder
Terry Grant: Bounced back off sports hernia surgery for successful spring
Roy Upchurch: Ability offset by a recurring place in the Saban's doghouse
Jonathan Lowe: Speedy, short walk-on proved a reliable option in a pinch
Demetrius Goode: Likely won't be much of a factor after reconstructive knee surgery
Mark Ingram: The most likely contributor among a host of incoming tailback signees

—Gentry Estes

SUPER DUTY



**The FastTrak™ Super Duty
Perfect At Work. Perfection At Home.**



hustlerturf.com

HUSTLER 

Maynard Equipment

1113 Moontown Road, Brownsboro, AL (256) 776-9435

7 miles east of Huntsville, on Highway 72

www.MaynardEquipment.com

The Fully Commercial FastTrak™ Super Duty

- A limited 4-year residential warranty – parts and labor*
- A limited 2-year commercial warranty – parts and labor*
- Lifetime warranty on the leading edge of the deck
- Lifetime warranty on tractor frame

** See your local Hustler dealer for complete warranty details*

costly turnovers in last year's losses to Florida State, LSU and Mississippi State.

Three times Wilson either fumbled or threw an interception that directly led to opposing touchdowns. The losing margin was no more than seven points in each of the three defeats.

If it weren't for such glaring bumbles, Wilson would be viewed more as an asset for Alabama's offense this season. Saban, after all, stands firmly in his corner. He's a senior. He's a two-year starter and an experienced, steady hand in a year that will introduce new signal-callers at schools all over the Southeastern Conference. He's also dependable, having not missed a start since taking over for predecessor Brodie Croyle, whose physical condition was always a concern.

Wilson is on his third offense in as many years, but will probably like this one the best. New position coach McElwain has a strong track record with quarterbacks. His offense—while surely not a drastic change from Alabama's first year under Saban—has been said by the head coach to be more quarterback friendly.

There will be an increase of short, simple completions and, thus, for Wilson, more decisions made before the ball is snapped. A streaky sort, Wilson should be helped by a system that allows him to increase his completion rate. He's a different quarterback when he gets rolling, as evidenced by last year's success in hurried, late-game situations.

As always with the position, Alabama's 2008 fortunes

are tied heavily to Wilson. Those looking for a quarterback controversy will have to keep looking into 2009. Greg McElroy held onto the backup spot despite starting slow in spring practice. It's not real clear what McElroy can do because he hasn't been allowed a chance behind the durable Wilson.

A redshirt sophomore, McElroy is a sharp guy who makes good decisions on the field, but he never made a serious push for the starter's role in 2007, and won't this year discounting injury. The same goes for Nick Fanuzzi, who remains third-string for another season after playing in only one game as a true freshman.

It will be interesting to see how coaches employ true freshman Star Jackson, who claims to run the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds. Some say Jackson could be used in a special package like Tim Tebow's first year at Florida, but haphazard plans don't seem to suit the calculating Saban.

Look for Jackson to remain out of the spotlight for a year. But that 2009 quarterback race is shaping up as a free-for-all, especially with touted Mobile prep senior AJ McCarron committed to join the fray.

Redshirt freshman Thomas Darrah demonstrated a strong arm in the spring, but odds are long against a walk-on unseating one of the scholarshiped players at the quarterback position.

TAILBACK

How tough is Terry Grant?

The Tide sophomore basically played the entire 2007 season with a painful, mystery injury that eventually was diagnosed as a sports hernia. It required surgery after the Independence Bowl, but, of course, Grant was 100 per cent by the time spring practice rolled around.

Such an attitude will continue to endear Grant to Alabama coaches, who also appreciate his open-field moves and big-play potential in an offense that lacks a consistent home-run threat. As long as Grant stays healthy, his role and production should only increase.

Saban would prefer to couple the big-play capabilities of Grant, a smaller back, with a more durable between-the-tackles workhorse. That appears to be Glen Coffee, a junior who is primed for a breakout year after the textbook investigation robbed him of his sophomore peak.

Coffee didn't participate fully in spring drills while recovering from shoulder surgery. But it's a sign of his own determination that although Saban publicly ruled Coffee out of the A-Day Game, Coffee still found his way into sparse duty on Alabama's non-tackling punt coverage team. Fellow junior Roy Upchurch has the ability. He raced through the spring's second scrimmage, but must stay out of Saban's doghouse to challenge Coffee and Grant for significant playing time this fall.

With injury and suspension depleting the tailback position late last season, walk-on Jonathan Lowe actually got the carries ahead of Jimmy Johns, who has since moved to linebacker. Lowe, at only 5-foot-7, is a gifted kick returner who could be effective in occasional duty.

What It Means To Be Crimson Tide

Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players

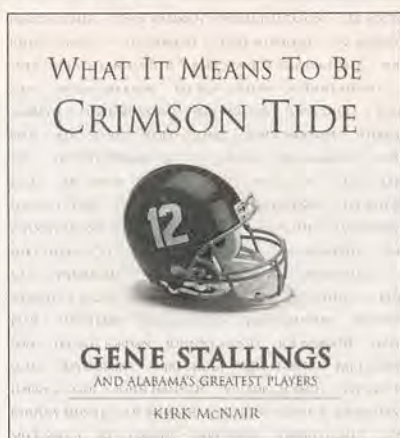
Alabama football means championships and All-America players and, for many, a man in a houndstooth hat. Some 60 Alabama players who performed over a 75-year period tell us "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Former Alabama Coach Gene Stallings and BAMA Editor Kirk McNair selected players who tell the stories of games and practices, coaches and teammates. The story of "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Among those featured are Harry Gilmer, Bart Starr, Lee Roy Jordan, Joe Namath, Ken Stabler, Johnny Musso, John Hannah, Ozzie Newsome, and Jay Barker.

Gene Stallings reveals much of his philosophy and reveals why he did NOT follow Paul Bryant as Alabama head football coach in 1983. Kirk McNair introduces the players.

"What It Means To Be Crimson Tide—Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players" is a hardcover book of over 300 pages in an oversized format with archival photographs throughout. To order (\$27.95 plus tax, shipping and handling) call 1-205-345-5074. You may request a personalized autograph from Kirk McNair.



Highly anticipated redshirt freshman Demetrius Goode tore a knee ligament soon after arriving on campus last August. He missed a season and was not quite back to 100 per cent by the time spring practice started. There is no need to rush Goode into the fray with so much depth ahead of him this season. Same goes for a handful of incoming freshmen who must impress right away to have any chance for meaningful playing time in 2008.

With Alabama's move away from an offense with a fullback (other than a spare tight end in the H-back position), there have been some moves among fullback types. Notably, Baron Huber has gone to defense as a linebacker and redshirt freshman Jeramie Griffin will crowd the field at tailback.

Never say never on freshman participation. Although there are plenty of candidates with at least some college experience at tailback, the running skills come naturally to the most gifted. It is possible that Mark Ingram, Ivan Matchett or Jermaine Preyear could factor in. The crowded tailback field is one reason freshman Chris Jordan is more likely to be at linebacker than on offense.

WIDE RECEIVER

It speaks to the perception of Alabama's receiving corps that the most famous name of the bunch this spring wasn't even on campus yet. National blue-chip signee Julio Jones of Foley received the most write-in votes of anyone during the school's SGA Presidential election this spring. He's already known by only one name, and bars and shops around town have taken to hyping Julio's arrival like few before him.

Jones will have a lot to live up to in his first season, and Saban has already taken to reminding people not to expect too much too soon. But that's a luxury that Alabama may not have this season.

Playmakers are needed in a unit that lost the accomplished trio of DJ Hall, Keith Brown and Matt Caddell to graduation. Though his legacy isn't exactly what the record books would suggest, Hall was an extremely valuable member of the offense, if only because other teams had to worry so much about him. The other side did well to know where Number 22 was, and the teams that didn't wound up like Tennessee last season. Hall will be missed.

In trying to replace him, this looms to be a big season for junior Mike McCoy. While overshadowed last season despite his starting role, McCoy is now the Tide's more reliable returning option. McCoy totaled only 207 receiving yards last season, and strives to become a more dangerous downfield target.

He's joined by deep-threat senior Nikita Stover, whose flashes of brilliance have been fleeting because he hasn't played that much. That problem should be fixed this season, though it's worth noting that Stover missed out on making a spring impression while sitting out a hamstring injury.

Although Stover's size suggests him as a slot receiver, most believe that is the spot where Darius Hanks can be most effective. The redshirt freshman impressed teammates with his work on the scout team last season. After running with the first-



For a store near you
visit us at
www.alafarm.com



SHOWCASE



Crescent®
70 Piece
Mechanic's Tool Set

- Professional Mechanic's Tools
- 72 tooth (5° swing) quick-release 3/8" and 1/4" ratchet drives
- Standard and deep sockets (SAE & metric)
- 12 combination wrenches
- Industrial-quality tools that meet ANSI & ASME specifications

#CTK70MP.
AFC #478962

New Item!

\$43⁹⁹



Whop POWER WINCH

Camo 2000 lb.
Model Shown
AFC No. 485802

(Not Shown)

Black 2000 lb. \$114.99 AFC No. 485801	Black 3000 lb. \$189.95 AFC No. 485804	Black 5000 lb. \$385.95 AFC No. 485835
Black 8000 lb. \$425.95 AFC No. 485808	Black 10,000 lb. \$599.95 AFC No. 485809	

\$169⁹⁹



10amp 6/12 Volt Battery Charger

FULLY AUTOMATIC
#SE-40MAP.
AFC #477761

\$66⁹⁹



2/15/100amp Battery Charger

FULLY AUTOMATIC
#SE-2151MA,
AFC #477763

\$96⁹⁹



Booster Cables

10 Ga., 12 ft.
#10-00221. AFC #477766

\$13⁹⁹



4Ga., 20 ft. Heavy Duty

#10-00277. AFC #477769

\$74⁹⁹



ITS 20GB HARD DRIVE ONLY ADDS TO ITS PERFORMANCE.

ALL-NEW DODGE AVENGER. MyGIG™ Multimedia Infotainment System* | Six-speaker Boston Acoustics® sound system† | Heated and cooled cup holder† | 3.5L V6 with 6-speed AutoStick®† | Let the performance begin | DODGE.COM/AVENGER

*MyGIG in-dash DVD capability is not available in all states. See your dealer for details. †Available. Chrysler Financial is a business unit of DaimlerChrysler Financial Services.

Chrysler Financial



GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS



DODGE

string much of spring, Hanks was on the second-team for the A-Day Game behind senior Will Oakley, who continues to battle injuries into the final stages of his Tide career.

Depth shouldn't be a problem. Varied other options at receiver include untested youngsters Earl Alexander, Brandon Gibson and Marquis Maze. And of course, there are incoming standouts like Jones and Burton Scott, an open-field threat who actually may be more likely to stand out this first year.

Destin Hood may opt for baseball, but other incoming freshmen—Melvin Ray and Devonta Bolton—have credentials. One of those new men isn't so new. Chris Jackson entered Alabama in December and participated in spring practice, which should give him a slight advantage over other newcomers.

TIGHT END

This position shapes up as the strength of Alabama's offense, so much that the Tide appears to have scrapped the fullback position in the hopes of getting more tight ends on the field. In short yardage packages, two tight ends could be joined by a third lined up in the backfield.

Rangy senior Nick Walker was a recurring pass target last season. He likely will split time with senior Travis McCall, who is the more compact, physical player of the two. Preston Dial was a consistent contributor as a redshirt freshman and will be a reliable option well past 2008.

Another name to

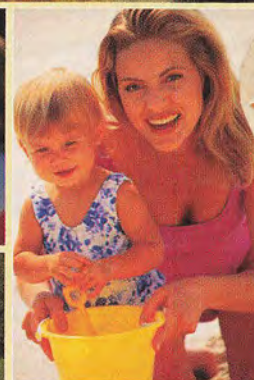


Nikita Stover is top returning wide receiver for Tide

Benjamin Cohen

*Stop Dreaming
About a
Hilton Head Island
Vacation!*

We've already got one, just waiting for your call.



Great Golf and Beach Vacations • Long Weekend Specials • Special Leisure Season Rates

800-545-3303



the VACATION COMPANY

Hilton Head Island Home & Villa Rentals

www.vacationcompany.com

It's all in our name!

remember is redshirt freshman Chris Underwood, who has impressed in practice and could be ready to help this season.

One question not yet answered is the status of Colin Peek. Peek is an outstanding tight end who transferred to Alabama from Georgia Tech after the Engineers hired Paul Johnson from Navy. Johnson does not use a tight end in his offense. Peek is a junior who hopes to have immediate eligibility. If not, he will have to sit out a year and will have only his senior season in 2009 to play.

As for freshmen, Michael Williams may be at tight end, but he is also a possibility at defensive end. Devonta Bolton is usually listed as a wide receiver, but some also consider him a tight end candidate.

OFFENSIVE LINE

What has been a recent weakness should turn into an obvious strength. Alabama could have one of the top offensive lines in the SEC, paced by Jacobs Award-winning left tackle Andre Smith.

No matter his weight, Smith is as gifted an athlete as you'll find for anyone more than 300 pounds. He's a future pro star and a worrisome sight for all opposing defensive ends. If Smith is not Wilson's best friend, he should be.

Wilson should have also been thrilled to see center Antoine Caldwell resist the lure of the NFL Draft to return for another season. Caldwell was the player most missed during last year's textbook fiasco, as much for his leadership as his actual performance on the field. He was voted by teammates one of three 2007 captains, and there is no question this team will carry his stamp. Caldwell didn't come back to lose.

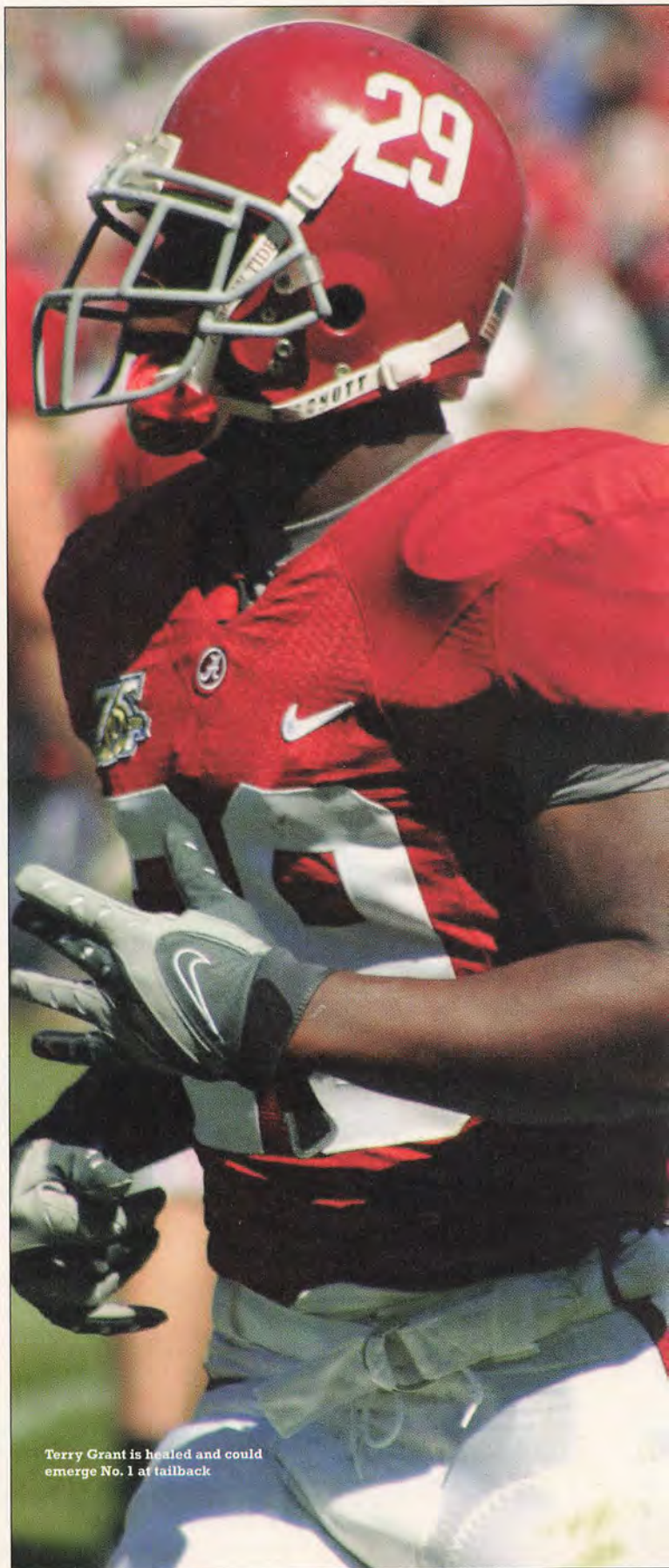
Knee issues finally claimed B.J. Stabler, who opted for a medical redshirt his final season. But counting right guard Marlon Davis, an underrated player, and all-purpose left guard Mike Johnson, who (like Caldwell) could be used anywhere on the line, the Tide exited spring with four of five spots nailed down. Right tackle is the only question heading into the fall. The spring starter was Drew Davis. But Caldwell, Johnson, Taylor Pharr or even incoming freshman Tyler Love could wind up at the position.

If Caldwell is needed at tackle, junior Evan Cardwell will again be a useful option for Alabama. Despite worsening back trouble, Cardwell fought gamely when needed in 2007. He provides valuable depth again this year.

While not quite ready for prime time, David Ross, William Vlachos and Patrick Crump (who missed spring due to minor knee surgery) will position themselves for 2009 based on how they perform in spot duty this season.

Soph Brian Motley moved from the offensive line to nose tackle prior to last season (his redshirt freshman year), but injuries have hampered him. A hand injury in the spring forced his move back to offense, where he got his first experience at center.

The offensive line is one of those positions where freshmen often have a hard time earning playing time, but in addition to Love, Bama added some candidates in Barrett Jones (probably a center candidate) and John Michael Boswell (likely a guard). ■



Terry Grant is healed and could emerge No. 1 at tailback

Benjamin Cohen

www.highlandscondos.com

Just one click away from your mountain paradise.

the Highlands
CONDOMINIUM
In the Heart of the Smokies

1-877-877-1377



THE DEFENSE

Saban looks for improvement

Nick Saban came to Alabama with a reputation as a defensive specialist, and did nothing to harm that standing in his first year with the Crimson Tide.

Alabama finished sixth in the Southeastern Conference in total defense, allowing 345.5 yards per game. But the Crimson Tide improved steadily as the season went along, turning in productive outings against the likes of Tennessee and Auburn after some early season trouble against Georgia and Arkansas among others.

"I think they got more comfortable with the scheme as the year went along, we made less mental errors and I think that's probably the key to us playing a little bit better," Saban said. "But I think we're capable of playing a lot better than that. Hopefully, we'll continue to improve."

Alabama's defensive coaching staff remains in place from a year ago, though there has been a slight shake-up. Secondary Coach Kirby Smart has been elevated to defensive coordinator, with former coordinator Kevin Steele sliding over to associate head coach and defensive head coach.

The change isn't likely to be noticeable, at least on the field. That's because Smart was already heavily involved in defensive game-planning and play-calling alongside Steele last season, Saban said.

"We kind of had a co-op situation last year—of which I'm a part of as well—with Kevin working very hard on the front stuff, Kirby working very hard with me mostly on the coverage stuff, pressure schemes, that sort of stuff. We'll continue to have the same kind of preparation.

"We'll continue to work well as a group. All of these guys made sacrifices so that we could keep our staff together here and we certainly appreciate it. I think it was very important for the future of the program that it got done the way it got done and I'm very happy and pleased to have both of those guys on the staff. They both make a strong contribution, they both have strong leadership qualities and they're both very, very good recruiters."

Saban's defenses have long been noted for their attacking style, and that was in evidence in 2007. The Crimson Tide was vulnerable to the big play (allowing 221.3 passing yards per game), but also turned in its share of key plays, finishing tied for third in the SEC by forcing 24 turnovers.

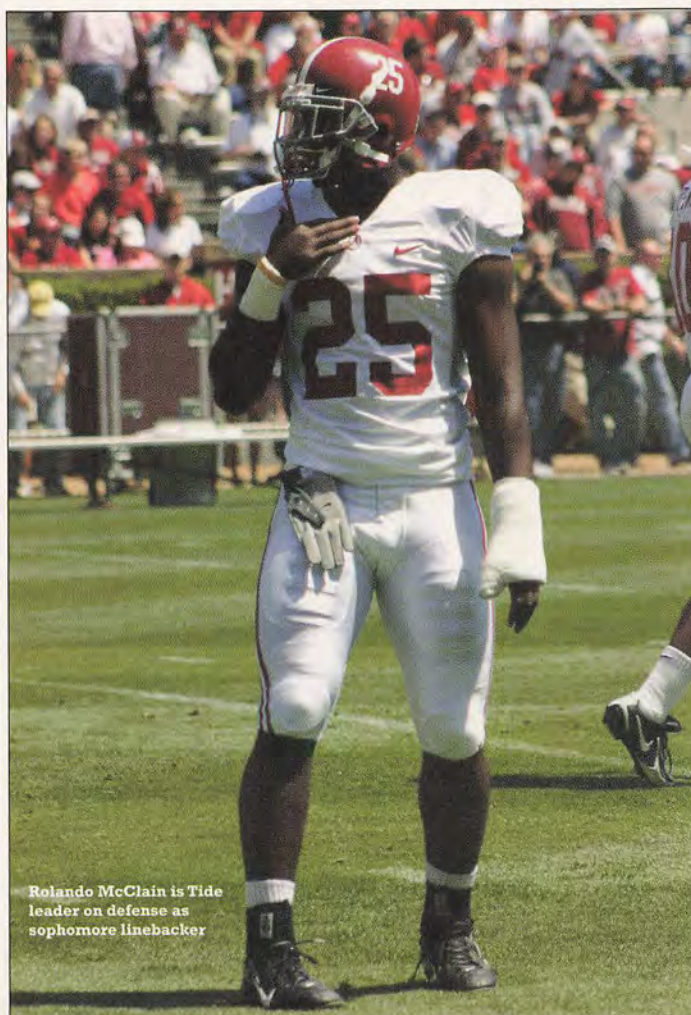
The Crimson Tide returns six players with extensive starting experience on defense, including three players on the defensive line and two members of the secondary. Two other players who started at least part-time in 2007

could return to the team, but remain question marks due to suspension or injury.

DEFENSIVE END

For the first time since 2003, Alabama coaches won't be able to pencil Wallace Gilberry's name into the lineup at defensive end every Saturday. Gilberry played in all 50 games of his college career, starting the last 38.

Gilberry enjoyed an All-SEC-caliber season as a senior in 2007, totaling 80 tackles, 27 tackles for loss and 10 sacks. He was all but unblockable in the Crimson Tide's Independence Bowl



Rolando McClain is Tide leader on defense as sophomore linebacker

Benjamin Cohen

IT'S ALL HERE WAITING FOR YOU

**Looking for a vacation rental
or your own peace of heaven?
We can accommodate you!**

- Located Directly On The Beach
- Private Balcony With View Of The Gulf
- Large Solar Heated Pool and Deck Area
- Washer & Dryer
- Self Cleaning Oven
- Beautifully Furnished 2, 3, & 4 Bedroom Units
- Refrigerator with Icemaker
- Dishwasher & Disposal
- Cable TV

Regatta Rentals and Sales offers luxurious condominium units in a vacation paradise of soft tropical breezes, warm gulf waters and sugar-white sands. Our condos are located just minutes from charter boat fishing, championship golf, outlet mall shopping, great seafood, exciting night life.

Whether you want to spend your day soaking up the sun or exploring the sights, the professionals at Regatta Rentals & Sales will help you get there. Give us a call and be on your way to the perfect beach getaway.



Regatta Rentals & Sales

317 E Beach Blvd • P O Box 6829 • Gulf Shores AL 36547

251-948-4358 • 800-264-4358

www.regattarentals.com

Directions to the Sales and Rental Office - From I-65 or I-10 take Highway 59 (Gulf Shores Parkway) south to Gulf Shores; turn left on Highway 182 (East Beach Boulevard); go approximately 1/8 mile to Regatta Condominium - located on the right (south) side of the road. Our office is on the second floor.



win over Colorado, totaling eight tackles, five tackles for losses and a sack to earn Defensive Most Valuable Player honors.

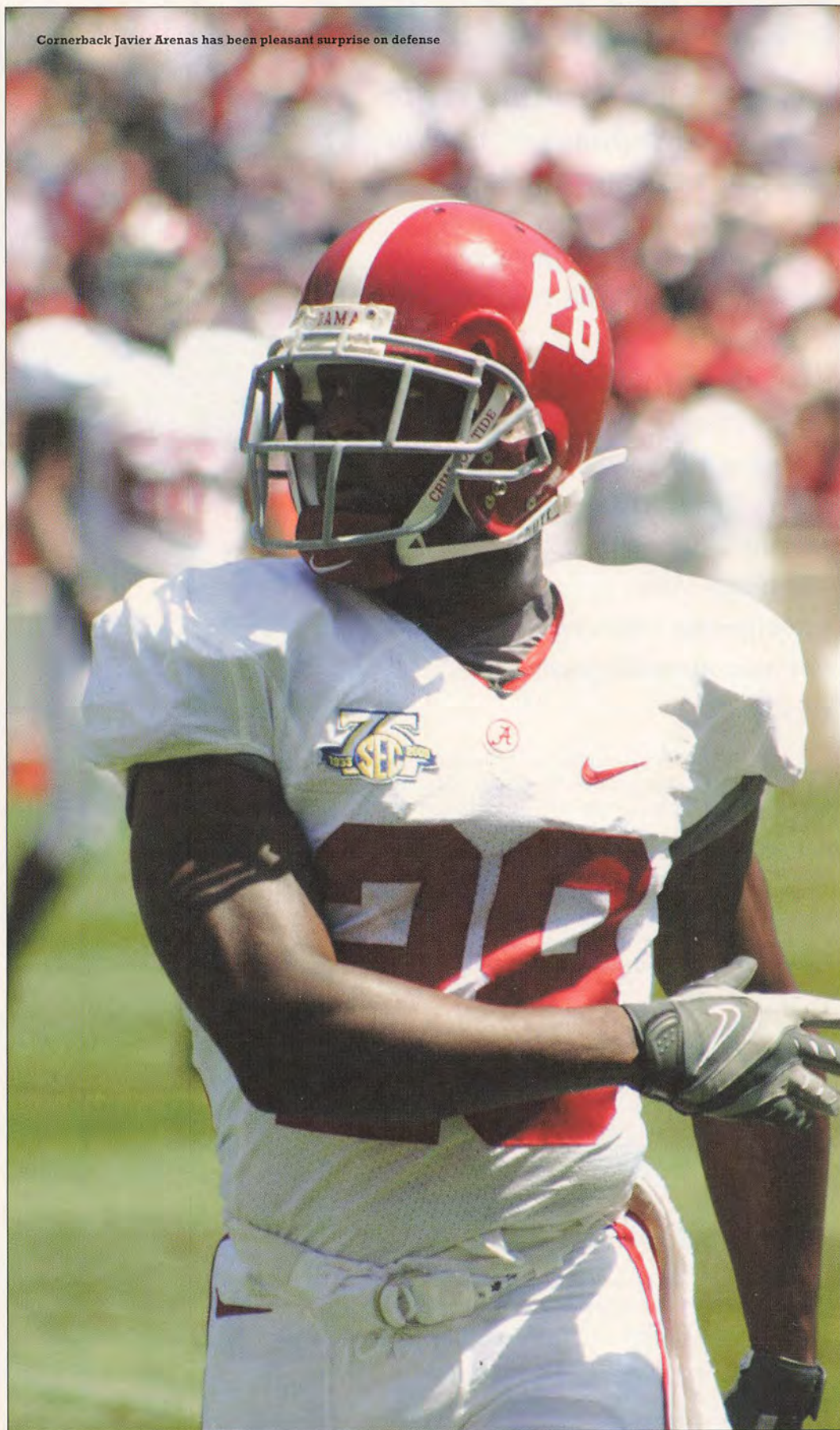
The task of filling the void left by Gilberry's departure will likely first go to junior Brandon Deaderick, a seven-game starter at right end a year ago. Deaderick ended the season with 22 tackles and two sacks and will need to up that production in a major way this season.

Bobby Greenwood began last season as the starter at right end, but lost his job to Deaderick after an ankle injury suffered against Florida State. Now a senior, he's moved over to the left side, where he can best utilize his skills as a run-stopper. Redshirt freshman Alfred McCullough was a pleasant surprise in the spring game, winning the Dwight Stephenson Most Valuable Lineman Award for his performance on A-Day. He'll serve as Greenwood's backup entering fall camp.

Sophomore Luther Davis, perhaps the most talented player in the returning group, will back up Deaderick. Redshirt freshman Nick Gentry and sophomore Milton Talbert --- who missed the spring with a shoulder injury --- will try not to get overtaken by a talented group of incoming freshmen.

Alabama signed four players who project as college defensive ends in February, though Michael Williams could begin his career at tight end. Also hoping to be in the mix are Brandon Lewis, Glenn Harbin, and Undra Billingsley, all productive players in high school.

Cornerback Javier Arenas has been pleasant surprise on defense



Benjamin Cohen

The best of the newcomers might be Marcel Dareus, a pass-rushing terror at Birmingham's Huffman High School. Dareus, however, looked to be a long shot to qualify academically on signing day and may begin his career in junior college.

NOSE TACKLE

A position that entered 2007 as the great unknown of the Alabama defense—if not the entire team—appears to be the most stable on the defensive line headed into the fall.

Brian Motley, a redshirt freshman and a former fourth-team center, won the starting job at nose tackle in the spring of 2007, but couldn't hold it even one game due to a series of injuries in the fall. Motley broke his hand and then his ankle, and was limited to eight games in a part-time role. He moved back to the offensive line in the spring after suffering a broken and dislocated finger (his third broken bone in seven months), and his defensive status for the fall remains unknown until camp begins in August.

Motley's loss was a gain for Lorenzo Washington, who had himself missed the 2007 spring with a torn pectoral muscle suffered in off-season weight lifting. Washington enjoyed a quietly productive first season as a starter, totaling 36 tackles and three sacks in 13 games.

Still, at 6-foot-4 and a shade over 275 pounds, Washington is not the unblockable bowling ball that coaches want in a 3-4 defense. The one player already on campus who best fits that description is sophomore Josh Chapman, who played sparingly in three games in 2007. Chapman (6-1, 300) drew raves from teammates on both sides of the ball in the spring, and looks to have a major role this fall.

Alabama signed four players who project as college defensive tackles, and two could have immediate impacts if they qualify academically. At 6-5 and 385 pounds, Terrence Cody might just be the biggest player in Crimson Tide history if he is able to graduate from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and join the team this fall.

Then there's former Hoover High standout Kerry Murphy, who signed with Alabama for a second time in February after failing to qualify academically and spending the last year at Hargrave Military Academy in Virginia. Even if Murphy makes it to Tuscaloosa this fall, it's possible he could end up at offensive tackle.

Two other signees, Texas product Damion Square and Birmingham native Undra Billingsley, are considered long-term prospects and unlikely to crack the depth chart as true freshmen. Square, however, might see some playing time depending on the status of Motley, Cody and Murphy.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

Heading into fall camp, there might be no position more in flux than this one. The reasons for that are myriad, ranging from graduation to injury to position changes.

Zeke Knight was one of the most pleasant surprises of the 2007 season, settling in at strongside linebacker after two years on offense and another at defensive end. Knight totaled 64 tackles, three sacks and two interceptions as a junior, and looked to be poised for a solid senior year in 2008.

But he suffered what is still an undisclosed medical problem during an off-season workout, one that caused him to spend several days in the hospital and miss all of spring practice. On the heels of a similar episode early in the 2006 season, Knight's football future remains very much in doubt. Saban has hinted that Knight's current problem is related to the previous episode in which heart surgery was required for Knight. Saban has made it very clear that Knight won't play until he is given medical clearance.

With Knight out indefinitely (perhaps permanently), one of the most talked-about players in recent Crimson Tide history ended the spring as the starter at the "Sam" position. Jimmy Johns, a high school quarterback who spent his first three years in college at running back, will be looking to make the leap from special teams assassin to SEC starter despite never having played linebacker before last December's bowl practices.

If Johns can't handle the job, it's likely a true freshman will have to, given that junior Eryk Anders and sophomore Charlie Kirschman are probably no more than backups at this stage of their careers. Gadsden product Jerrell Harris is the most decorated of a linebacker signee group that also includes Devonta Bolton and Courtney Upshaw. Bolton is more likely to be on offense, most believe, and Upshaw may be more suited to the on-the-line jack linebacker position. Even Harris might end up somewhere else, notably inside linebacker.

The "Jack," is a crucial piece in Saban's defense, a position that plays sometimes at linebacker and sometimes at end. Keith Saunders started all 13 games there a year ago, but enjoyed a nondescript senior season.

Junior Brandon Fanney, who has played sparingly on defense the last two seasons, emerged from the spring as the starter at Jack. He has also played both end and tackle in his Alabama career, but probably is best fit as a pass-rushing specialist.

Sophomore Chavis Williams and redshirt freshman Alex Watkins will also challenge for playing time at Jack, as could Upshaw and Bolton. Williams served as Knight's primary backup at Sam last season, and he may be at Sam. Another incoming freshman who could be at Jack is Glenn Harbin, who is also listed as a defensive end.

INSIDE LINEBACKER

It's hard to overstate the impact that Rolando McClain made as a true freshman for the Crimson Tide in 2007. The 6-4, 255-pound Decatur native won a starting job early in fall camp—though he alternated with Prince Hall for part of the season—and ended up with 75 tackles, two interceptions and four pass breakups to earn first-team Freshman All-America honors from The Sporting News.

McClain was playing his best football at the end of the year, piling up 15 tackles and an interception in the regular-season finale against Auburn. He then won the esteem of coaches, teammates and fans for his performance in the Independence Bowl win over Colorado, totaling five tackles, two pass breakups and an interception despite suffering both a broken thumb and a separated shoulder during the game.

DEFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

Left End

Bobby Greenwood: Big shoes to fill with four-year standout Gilberry now gone
Alfred McCullough: Slimmed down from 2007, could be solid college end
Nick Gentry: Undersized and injury prone, but productive in high school

Nose Tackle

Lorenzo Washington: Former top prospect enjoyed quietly solid 2007 season
Josh Chapman: Every Tide offensive lineman has raved about his potential
Brian Motley: Can't stay healthy, and moved back to offense in spring

Right End

Brandon Deaderick: Should succeed Gilberry as line's emotional leader
Luther Davis: Louisiana native as talented as any of team's D-linemen
Milton Talbert: Missed spring with shoulder injury, faces logjam ahead of him

Strongside Linebacker

Jimmy Johns: Relentless hitter finally on defense after three years at running back
Eryk Anders: Longtime special teams standout had solid showing in A-Day game
Zeke Knight: Football future in doubt after two major health scares in three years
Charlie Kirschman: Hoping to become known for more than prepping with Tebow

Middle Linebacker

Rolando McClain: Just a sophomore, but already the veteran anchor of the front seven
Charlie Higgenbotham: Another special teams standout looking to leap to regular duty
Jennings Hester: Redshirt frosh prepped at Atlanta private-school powerhouse Marist

Weakside Linebacker

Cory Reamer: Former safety has battled injuries, but was starter at end of spring
Baron Huber: Spring "experiment" on defense could stick into fall
Prince Hall: Two-year starter suspended indefinitely, but still on team for now

Jack Linebacker

Brandon Fanney: Seems a natural fit at OLB after time at end and tackle in past
Chavis Williams: Showed enough to play in eight games as a true freshman in '07
Alex Watkins: Redshirt freshman looking to be pass-rusher off bench

Left Cornerback

Javier Arenas: Fast, smart and cocksure, only knock on him is height
Marquis Johnson: Will man left side in nickel, with Arenas shifting to "star"
Alonzo Lawrence: If he qualifies, could force his way onto field early

Right Cornerback

Kareem Jackson: Surprise freshman a year ago, could make leap to All-SEC soon
Chris Rogers: Physically gifted, but hasn't been able to crack lineup to this point
Lionel Mitchell: Injuries and discipline problems have derailed a promising career
Tyrone King Jr.: Walk-on has beaten out more highly touted players before

Strong Safety

Justin Woodall: Former top prospect finally has a chance to start
Mark Barron: Versatile freshman won't be on the sidelines for long
Sam Burnthall: Looking to break out of special teams and onto field full-time

Free Safety

Rashad Johnson: Ex-walk-on might be most unlikely All-SEC player in Bama history
Ali Sharrief: Former running back has found a home on defense
Robert Lester: Julio Jones' high school sidekick a fine prospect in his own right

So McClain's "Mike" position is settled, with sophomore Charlie Higgenbotham and redshirt freshman Jennings Hester the likely back-ups. Higgenbotham was one of the Crimson Tide's better special teams players in 2007 and had an impressive A-Day Game.

But what of the "Will" position, manned so ably by former walk-on and eventual team captain Darren Mustin in 2007? It remains a total mystery.

A lot will depend upon whether or not junior Prince Hall is allowed back on the team after being suspended indefinitely by Saban before the spring. Hall, a freshman All-America himself in 2006, has totaled 135 tackles the last two seasons, but has been unable to stay out of trouble off the field.

Junior Cory Reamer ended the spring as the starter at "Will," but he has spent much of his career at safety and on special teams and has twice had his season ended early by a knee injury. Converted fullback Baron Huber—a linebacker in high school—was running second-team at spring's end.

Harris could see playing time at inside linebacker if he's not needed outside. Fellow true freshman Don'ta Hightower, a 6-4, 250-pound specimen, could also be a factor here. Chris Jordan, who was an outstanding tailback and linebacker in high school, seems likely headed to defense when he arrives in August.

CORNERBACK

After a lengthy run of veterans at the position including Simeon Castille, Ramzee Robinson and Anthony Madison the last few years, Alabama's defensive corners will be manned largely by young players this season. That's not necessarily a bad thing.

Kareem Jackson was nearly as productive for the defense as McClain was as a true freshman in 2007, starting 12 games and totaling 66 tackles and three interceptions to earn second-team Freshman All-America honors from The Sporting News. He's back to hold down right cornerback this fall, and could develop into the Tide's next secondary superstar.

Javier Arenas seized the left corner position vacated by four-year producer Castille in the spring, and brings many of the same skills to defense that have made him one of the top return men in the country. He's fast, physical and possesses the necessary swagger to man a position where he'll be challenged one-on-one dozens of times per game.

Arenas saw time at the nickel or "star" corner last season, and could do the same in five-defensive-back formations this season. If so, junior Marquis Johnson ended the spring as the likeliest candidate to be first corner off the bench this fall.

Johnson could be challenged by holdovers Lionel Mitchell (who missed the spring with back problems) and junior Chris Rogers, as well as walk-on Tyrone King, Jr., and true freshman Robby Green. True freshman Alonzo Lawrence opened eyes in the post-season all-star games, and could be an immediate contributor if he qualifies academically.

Another wildcard might be true freshman Burton "B.J." Scott, an all-around threat in high school whom many projected as a defensive back in college. However, Saban said on Signing Day that Scott would begin his Crimson Tide career on offense, probably at receiver.

SAFETY

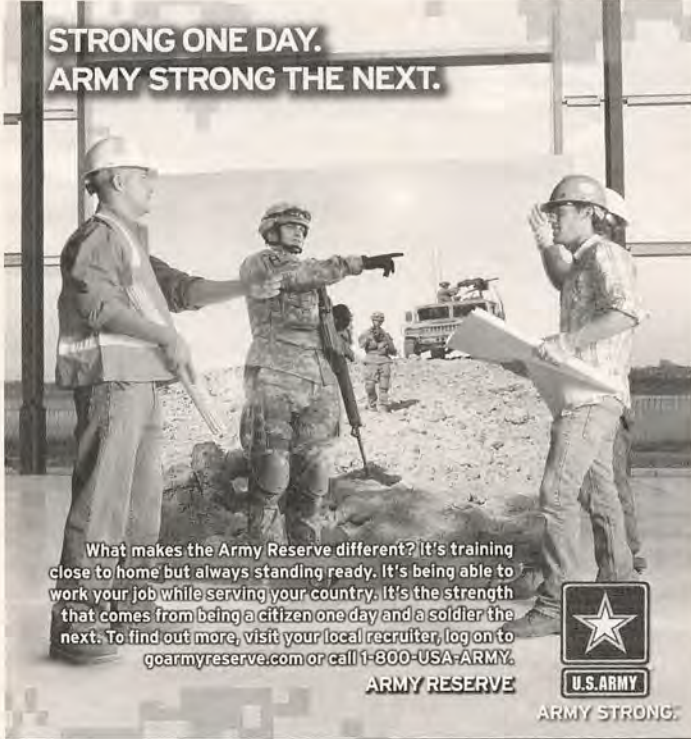
The deep secondary is the domain of Alabama's version of "Mr. Dependable," senior Rashad Johnson. In four years, the Sulligent native has evolved from unrecruited walk-on to not only permanent team captain, but returning All-SEC safety.

Johnson enjoyed a fabulous 2007 season, leading the Crimson Tide with 94 tackles and tying for tops in the conference with six interceptions. Barring an injury, his free safety position is one where the Tide has absolutely no worries.

The other safety position is another matter, even though senior Marcus Carter made few big plays last season. Justin Woodall has long been projected as a productive college player, but hasn't shown much consistency in his first two college seasons. He's being counted on to produce at strong safety in 2008.

If Woodall falters, true freshman Mark Barron could seize a starting role. Barron (6-2, 215) was a star running back for Class 5A state champion St. Paul's of Mobile, but projects as a standout college safety in the mold of former LSU star LaRon Landry (who also played for Saban).

Junior Ali Sharrief, a former running back who moved into a part-time role at safety last season, is the best of a reserve group that also includes junior Sam Burnthall and true freshmen Robert Lester and Wesley Neighbors. The son of former ex-Alabama center Wes Neighbors and grandson of former All-America tackle (and College Football Hall of Famer) Billy Neighbors could become a rare third-generation player for the Crimson Tide if he doesn't grayshirt this fall. ■



**STRONG ONE DAY.
ARMY STRONG THE NEXT.**

What makes the Army Reserve different? It's training close to home but always standing ready. It's being able to work your job while serving your country. It's the strength that comes from being a citizen one day and a soldier the next. To find out more, visit your local recruiter, log on to goarmyreserve.com or call 1-800-USA-ARMY.

ARMY RESERVE
U.S. ARMY
ARMY STRONG.

Are you Army Strong?

Talk with your Local Army Recruiter
and see what the Reserves can offer you.

© 2007. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Some good, some improvement needed

When Ron Middleton left Tuscaloosa for Duke, the former Alabama special teams coordinator/tight ends coach gave a rare interview to a Birmingham radio station. During that chat, Middleton told WJOX listeners that his job was laid out for him in black and white when he arrived, and he was not asked to be much of an innovator. "I was handed a special team's playbook," he said of his first meeting with Tide Coach Nick Saban.

Such was almost certainly the case when long-time Saban assistant Bobby Williams returned to college coaching this past spring. A few names will change on the Tide special team's depth charts, but schemes will stay the same. Saban felt his system succeeded in 2007. "I think we made a real significant improvement (over 2006) in special teams, at least if you do the quality control, regarding where we were in the rankings in the SEC relative to the year before," he said. "Hopefully, we'll continue to do that."

Saban said, "You have to have role players on special teams to have good special teams. I think we have good return people. I think our kicker is good. We may need to make some improvements in some other areas." Some might assume such an area needing improvement to be the punting game, but Saban did not specifically mention that.

Though no one challenged returning starter P.J. Fitzgerald in the spring, he averaged 38.1 yards per kick in 2007 with a net of 33.5., due to his coverage unit yielding but 6.6 per returned. Fitzgerald had 20 punts downed inside the 20, and induced 13 fair catches last year.

To his credit, Fitzgerald (5-11, 194) appeared to have improved his leg strength and/or his technique in the spring, as he averaged over 43 yards per kick in Bama's three scrimmages. For now, his backup is walk-on Heath Thomas, a junior from Montgomery. Many Tide fans thought and hoped that true freshman Corey Smith would come from West Virginia to Tuscaloosa and seize the punting job, but every appearance Smith made in spring scrimmages was as a place-kicker.

That job will be manned once again by junior Leigh

Tiffin, a legacy whose father Van was a legend in Tuscaloosa. The younger Tiffin has improved each year he's been at The Capstone, and last year nailed 25 of his 34 field goal attempts. He connected on all 36 of his extra point kick attempts.

His holder will once again be Fitzgerald, who continues a trend of punters holding for kicks at Bama. That trend of punters rather than back-up quarterbacks results from limited practice time for the signal-callers with the offense, along with the fact that punters and place-kickers spend almost all their practice time together, and apart from their offensive and defensive teammates.

Tiffin exited spring as the Tide's kickoff man, a job he handled most of last season, though walk-on Andrew Friedman has shown he can perform that task should Saban and Williams decide to save Tiffin for placekicking duties only. Friedman, a junior from Fairhope, has seen limited game action.

One change Saban hopes Tide fans and opponents notice is more new names covering kickoffs and punts.

"We need to have more core special teams players," Saban said, "so that we don't have to use as many starters on special teams. We used a lot of starters on special teams last year. I think that wears people down, and that affects your ability to finish games. The more people that we can use in different roles, I think it gives them something to look forward to, as well as it helps preserve some of our starters' ability to finish games"

Saban likes to use fast linebackers, safeties, cornerbacks, and receivers on kick coverage. Key backups like Marquis Johnson and long-time special teams ace Chris Rogers should factor in big, as should guys like redshirt freshman Charlie Higgenbotham. True freshmen such as Gadsden's Jerrell Harris, along with defensive backs Robby Green and Alonzo Lawrence, could make an impact. Current starting safeties Rashad Johnson and Justin Woodall both made their marks on special teams, but may be among those that Saban would like to rest, if possible, when the kicking units trot out.

Linebacker Jimmy Johns and safety Tyrone King are two

others who could be key on kick coverage, as both have caused fumbles on kick-offs during their Crimson Tide careers. Linebacker Cory Reamer also has been a stalwart on kick coverage units.

Though he has earned a job as a starting cornerback at Bama, junior Javier Arenas is not going to be relinquishing his kick-off and punt return duties. He is, perhaps, the most dangerous man in the SEC with the pigskin in his hands. Perhaps the most electric moment of the 2007 season came when Arenas returned an LSU punt 61 yards to pay-dirt to give his team a fourth-quarter lead against the eventual national champions. Bama did not "finish" that game as Saban would have liked, but went toe-to-toe with the Bayou Bengals largely due to Arenas' return, and his career-high 237 all-purpose yards that night. Arenas set his team up on the doorstep in Nashville when he fielded a rugby-style punt and returned it 69 yards to put Bama in a first-and-goal situation from which the Commodores never recovered.

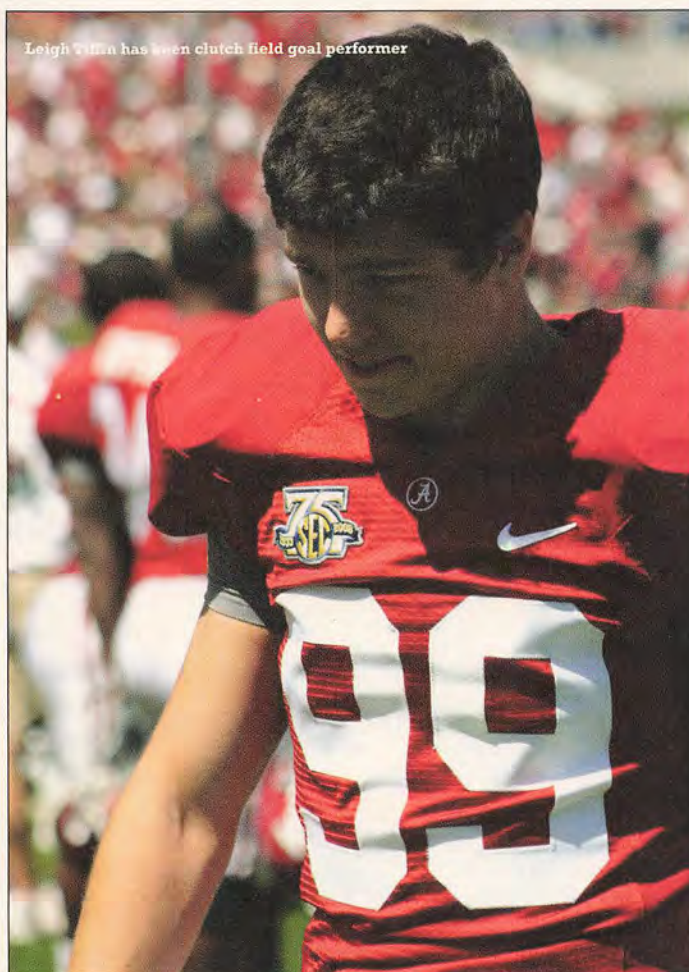
Arenas, who is listed at 5-foot-9, 193-pounds, returned 21 punts for a 15.4-yard average. He was just as dangerous on kick-offs, where he averaged 24.3 yards on 27 attempts, including a 62-yarder in Bama's 41-17 win over Tennessee at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

A big question entering the fall is: who will join Arenas deep on kick-offs? Last year, the season ended with 5-foot-7, 184-pound walk-on Jonathan Lowe in that role, and he exited spring there, as well. Lowe is also the back-up to Arenas on punt returns. And Lowe, who returned 14 kick-offs for a 19.8-yard average, may well be deep with Arenas the first time Clemson kicks off to Bama August 30. However, he is almost certainly going to be pushed hard for that job by a few members of the Tide's top-ranked recruiting class. A name that comes to mind is Mobile athlete Burton Scott, whose speed and cutting ability made him a South Alabama legend during his career at Vigor High School. Like Arenas, Scott has been compared to Tide legend David Palmer when carrying the ball in the open field.

Redshirt Freshman Marquis Maze (5-9, 167) was a dangerous kick returner in his days at Tarrant High School, and he, too, could be a factor on both punt and kick returns. Maze and/or Scott could make things more difficult for Tide opponents who wisely choose to kick away from Arenas, as was the case much of the latter part of the 2007 season.

The sign of a good long-snapper is when no one knows who he is because his name and number are never called. Such has been the case for Bama for about a decade, and last year was no exception. Returning starter Brian Selman (6-0, 218) is a senior, and his backup is redshirt freshman Paul Silvey (5-11, 215). Selman played his high school ball at Vestavia for Buddy Anderson, while Silvey prepped at Prattville under Bill Clark. Both those coaches put a huge emphasis on special teams.

The 2008 edition of Alabama special teams probably won't look much different to the naked eye of the average fan, but if the plans of Saban and Williams come to fruition, said fans likely will be a bit happier regarding the units, particularly considering the already good results of 2007. ■



Leigh Tiffin has been clutch field goal performer

Benjamin Cohen

SPECIAL TEAMS DEPTH CHART

PLACEKICKER

Leigh Tiffin: Confident and competent for clutch kicking
Andrew Friedman: May be used on kickoffs
Corey Smith: Rare kicking specialist signee may also be punter

PUNTER

P.J. Fitzgerald: After two average years, looked improved in spring
Heath Thomas: Has shown a big leg on occasion

SNAPPER

Brian Selman: Got the job done as starter in 2007
Paul Silvey: Missed some spring work with injury

HOLDER

P.J. Fitzgerald: Back for another year with Tiffin

KICK RETURNER

Javier Arenas: Outstanding on kickoff and punt returns
Jonathan Lowe: Joins Arenas on kickoffs, back-up on punts
Marquis Maze: One of speedy unknowns who might fit in

2008 Alabama Football Roster

No	Name, Pos	Cl	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown
3	Kareem Jackson, CB	So	5-11	185	1L	Macon, Ga.
4	Marquis Maze, WR	Fr	5-9	167	RS	Tarrant
5	Roy Upchurch, TB	Jr	6-0	192	2L	Tallahassee, Fla.
6	Demetrius Goode, TB	Fr	5-10	197	RS	LaGrange, Ga.
6	Patrick Bryant, QB	Fr	6-3	208	RS	Trussville
7	Will Oakley, WR	Sr	6-1	196	2L	Ponte Vedra Bch, Fla.
8	Chris Rogers, DB	Jr	6-0	192	2L	Lakeland, Fla.
8	Robert Ezell, QB	Fr	5-9	163	RS	Athens
9	Nikita Stover, WR	Sr	6-0	207	2L	Hartselle
10	Jimmy Johns, LB	Sr	6-2	233	3L	Brookhaven, Miss.
11	Brandon Gibson, WR	Fr	6-1	192	RS	Mobile
12	Greg McElroy, QB	So	6-3	218	Sq	Southlake, Texas
13	Cory Reamer, LB	Jr	6-4	223	1L	Hoover
14	John Parker Wilson, QB	Sr	6-2	213	2L	Hoover
15	Darius Hanks, WR	Fr	6-0	190	RS	Norcross, Ga.
15	Mark Holt, DB	Fr	6-0	173	HS	Muscle Shoals
16	Lionel Mitchell, CB	Sr	6-2	182	2L	Stone Mountain, Ga.
16	Thomas Darrah, QB	Fr	6-5	190	RS	Newnan, Ga.
17	Alex Jackson, QB	Jr	5-11	190	Sq	Marietta, Ga.
18	Nick Fanuzzi, QB	So	6-3	201	SQ	San Antonio, Texas
19	Tarence Farmer, WR	Fr	6-0	195	RS	Houston, Texas
19	Ross Applegate, QB	So	6-5	197	Tr	Marietta, Ga.
20	Chris Scott, WR	So	5-11	175	Sq	Birmingham
20	Justen Santana, RB	Fr	6-0	200	RS	Canton, Ga.
21	Prince Hall, ILB	Jr	5-11	265	2L	Moreno Valley, Calif.
22	Beryele Lockett, DB	Fr	6-1	190	HS	Tuscaloosa
24	Marquis Johnson, CB	Jr	5-11	186	1L	Sarasota, Fla.
25	Rolando McClain, MLB	So	6-4	255	1L	Decatur
26	Ali Sharrief, S	Jr	5-9	197	2L	Stevenson
27	Justin Woodall, S	Jr	6-2	224	2L	Oxford, Miss.
28	Javier Arenas, CB	Jr	5-9	193	2L	Tampa, Fla.
29	Terry Grant, TB	So	5-10	188	1L	Lumberton, Miss.
30	Jonathan Lowe, TB	Sr	5-7	184	1L	Phenix City
30	Stanley Phillips, DB	Fr	6-0	185	HS	Montgomery
32	Eryk Anders, LB	Jr	6-2	225	1L	San Antonio, Texas
33	Patrick Hanrahan, FB	So	6-0	232	Sq	Springville
33	Hampton Gray, DB	So	6-1	188	Sq	Northport
34	Jeramie Griffin, RB	Fr	6-0	225	RS	Batesville, Miss.
35	Charlie Kirschman, LB	So	6-2	228	1L	St. Augustine, Fla.
35	Joe Robinson, LB	Jr	5-11	230	RS	Birmingham
37	T.J. Ballou, DB	Fr	6-0	176	HS	Meridian, Miss.
38	Glen Coffee, TB	Jr	6-2	197	2L	Ft. Walton Bch., Fla.
39	Tyrone King, CB	Jr	5-11	204	1L	Birmingham
39	Melvin Taylor, WR	Fr	6-0	170	HS	Meridian, Miss.
40	Baron Huber, LB	Jr	6-3	242	2L	Knoxville, Tenn.
41	Brandon Powell, OLB	Jr	6-2	221	RS	Grove Hill
42	Jennings Hester, LB	Fr	6-2	224	RS	Atlanta, Ga.
43	Sam Burnthall, DB	Jr	6-2	185	2L	Decatur
43	A.J. Walker, WR	Fr	6-1	185	RS	Huntsville
44	Corey Smith, PK-P	Fr	6-0	190	HS	Bunker Hill, W.Va.
44	Jacob Vane, FB	So	6-1	232	Sq	Oak Ridge, Tenn.
45	Ch. Higgenbotham, MLB	So	6-1	211	1L	Birmingham
45	Sam Snider, WR-P	Fr	5-10	163	RS	Norcross, Ga.
46	Kyle Pennington, WR	Fr	5-11	170	RS	Chatom
47	Ezekial Knight, SLB	Sr	6-4	235	3L	Wedowee
48	Travis Sikes, WR	So	6-2	194	Sq	Nashville, Tenn.
49	Rashad Johnson, S	Sr	6-0	187	3L	Sulligent
50	Brian Selman, SN	Sr	6-0	218	1L	Vestavia Hills
51	Michael DeJohn, LB	Fr	6-0	220	RS	Hoover
52	Alfred McCullough, DE	Fr	6-2	317	RS	Athens
53	Paul Silvey, SN	Fr	5-11	215	RS	Prattville
54	Juan Garnier, NT	Jr	6-4	315	Sq	Everett, Mass.
55	Chavis Williams, DE/LB	So	6-4	214	RS	Dora
56	Spencer Whitfield, SN	Fr	6-2	227	RS	Leeds
57	Brad Pounds, DL	Sr	6-3	280	Sq	Boaz
58	Nick Gentry, DL	So	6-3	263	RS	Prattville
59	Antoine Caldwell, C-OC	Sr	6-3	292	3L	Montgomery
59	Alex Benson, LB	So	6-1	210	Sq	Trussville
60	Scott Deaton, OT	Jr	6-6	286	Sq	Birmingham
66	Brian Motley, OL/DL	So	6-2	280	Sq	Autaugaville

No	Name, Pos	Cl	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown
68	Taylor Pharr, OT	So	6-6	281	1L	Irondale
69	Patrick Crump, OL	Fr	6-3	267	RS	Hoover
70	Evan Cardwell, C	Jr	6-2	278	2L	Killen
71	Andre Smith, OT	Jr	6-5	340	2L	Birmingham
73	William Vlachos, OL	Fr	6-1	295	RS	Birmingham
74	David Ross, OG	So	6-4	297	1L	Homewood
76	Marlon Davis, OG	Sr	6-4	290	3L	Columbus, Ga.
78	Mike Johnson, OG	Jr	6-6	298	2L	Pensacola, Fla.
79	Drew Davis, OT	Jr	6-8	276	Sq	Evergreen
80	Mike McCoy, WR	Jr	6-3	199	2L	Rankin, Miss.
81	Andrew Friedman, PK	Jr	6-1	210	Sq	Fairhope
82	Earl Alexander, WR	So	6-5	210	1L	Phenix City
83	Travis McCall, TE	Sr	6-2	261	3L	Prattville
84	Colin Peek, TE	Jr	6-6	250	Tr	Jacksonville, Fla.
85	Preston Dial, TE	So	6-3	223	1L	Mobile
86	Chris Jackson, WR	Fr	6-1	190	HS	McDonough, Ga.
87	Chris Underwood, TE	Fr	6-4	226	RS	Birmingham
87	Drew Bullard, LB	Fr	6-3	241	RS	Florence
88	Nick Walker, TE	Sr	6-5	255	3L	Brundidge
90	Milton Talbert, DE	So	6-3	252	1L	Hattiesburg, Miss.
91	Alex Watkins, LB	Fr	6-3	218	RS	Brownsville, Tenn.
93	Bobby Greenwood, DE	Sr	6-5	257	3L	Prattville
93	Drew Cummings, TE/DE	Fr	6-5	216	RS	Huntington, W. Va.
95	Brandon Deaderick, DE	Jr	6-4	286	2L	Elizabethtown, Ky.
95	Colin Gallagher, PK	Fr	6-0	189	RS	Atlanta, Ga.
96	Luther Davis, DE	So	6-4	275	1L	West Monroe, La.
97	P.J. Fitzgerald, P	Jr	5-11	194	2L	Coral Springs, Fla.
97	Lorenzo Washington, DT	Jr	6-4	283	2L	Logansville, Ga.
98	Brandon Fanne, OLB/DE	Jr	6-4	241	1L	Morristown, Tenn.
98	Heath Thomas, P	Jr	6-3	213	Sq	Montgomery
99	Josh Chapman, DT	So	6-1	300	Sq	Hoover
99	Leigh Tiffin, PK	Jr	6-1	198	2L	Muscle Shoals

2008 Alabama Football Signees

Name, Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	40	Hometown (School)
Mark Barron, S-WR	6-2	205	4.5	Mobile (St. Paul's)
Undra Billingsley, DE	6-3	245	N/A	Birmingham (Woodlawn)
Devonta Bolton, TE-WR	6-4	210	4.5	Norcross, Ga.
John Michael Boswell, OL	6-5	290	N/A	Tuscaloosa (Tuscaloosa Co)
Terrence Cody, DT	6-5	385	N/A	Ft Myers, Fla (Gulf Coast)
Marcel Dareus, DT	6-5	285	4.8	Birmingham (Huffman)
Robby Green, CB	6-0	180	4.4	River Ridge, La. (Jn Curtis)
Glenn Harbin, DE	6-5	230	N/A	Mobile (McGill-Toolen)
Jerrell Harris, LB	6-3	208	4.5	Gadsden (Gadsden City)
Dont'a Hightower, LB	6-2	245	4.7	Lewisburg, Tn. (Marshall)
Destin Hood, WR	6-2	182	4.5	Mobile (St. Paul's)
Mark Ingram, RB	5-10	202	4.5	Flint, Mich. (SW Academy)
Star Jackson, QB	6-3	185	4.5	Lake Worth, Fla.
Barrett Jones, OT	6-5	270	N/A	Cordova, Tn. (Evnglcal Ch)
Julio Jones, WR	6-4	212	4.5	Foley
Chris Jordan, RB-LB	6-2	208	4.5	Brentwood, Tn. (Academy)
Alonzo Lawrence, CB	6-0	180	4.5	Lucedale, Miss. (George Co)
Robert Lester, S	6-2	205	4.6	Foley
Brandon Lewis, DE	6-3	260	N/A	Pleasant Grove
Tyler Love, OL	6-7	270	N/A	Birmingham (Mtn Brook)
Ivan Matchett, RB	5-10	205	4.6	Mobile (St. Paul's)
Kerry Murphy, DT-OT	6-6	317	5.3	Hoover (Hargrave Acad.)
Wesley Neighbors, S	6-2	195	4.55	Huntsville
*Morgan Ogilvie, QB	6-1	185	4.7	Birmingham (Mtn Brook)
Jermaine Preyear, RB	5-11	195	N/A	Mobile (Davidson)
Melvin Ray, WR	6-3	205	4.5	Tllhssee, Fla. (N. Fl. Chris.)
Burton Scott, WR-CB	5-10	190	4.4	Prichard (Vigor)
Brad Smelley, QB-WR	6-3	215	N/A	Tuscaloosa (ACA)
Damion Square, DL	6-3	275	4.75	Houston, Texas (Yates)
Courtney Upshaw, LB	6-2	225	N/A	Eufaula
Michael Williams, TE-DE	6-6	240	4.7	Reform (Pickens County)

(Early signees Chris Jackson and Corey Smith enrolled and participated in spring practice and listed on numerical roster)

*Announced walk-on

CRIMSON TIDE QUICK FACTS

ALABAMA FOOTBALL COACHING STAFF

Head Coach.....	Nick Saban (Kent State, 1973) Record as college head coach: 98-48-1, 67.2%
Quarterbacks/Offensive Coordinator.....	Jim McElwain (Eastern Washington, 1984)
Offensive Line/Assistant Head Coach Offense.....	Joe Pendry (West Virginia, 1969)
Running Backs/Associate Head Coach.....	Burton Burns (Nebraska, 1976)
Tight Ends/Special Teams.....	Bobby Williams (Purdue, 1982)
Receivers/Recruiting Coordinator.....	Curt Cignetti (West Virginia, 1982)
Inside Linebackers/Defensive Head Coach.....	Kevin Steele (Tennessee, 1981)
Outside Linebackers.....	Lance Thompson (The Citadel, 1987)
Defensive Line.....	Bo Davis (LSU, 1993)
Secondary/Defensive Coordinator.....	Kirby Smart (Georgia, 1998)
Director of Football Operations.....	Todd Alles (Ohio State, 1976)
Director of Player Personnel.....	Tim Davis (Utah, 1982)
Assistant Athletics Director for Student Services (Academics).....	Jon Dever (Clemson, 1988)
Director of Player Development.....	Willie Carl Martin (Northeastern State, 1975)
Assistant Director of Player Development.....	Jeremy Pruitt (Alabama, 1996)
Football Strength & Conditioning.....	Scott Cochran (LSU, 2002)
Trainer.....	Jeff Allen (Georgia Southern, 1993)
Equipment Manager.....	Tank Conerly (Ole Miss, 1980)
Video Coordinator.....	Don Rawson (Alabama, 1990)
Graduate Assistant.....	Tim Davis
Graduate Assistant.....	Rob Sale
Graduate Assistant.....	Patrick Suddes
Graduate Assistant.....	Dan O'Brien
Graduate Assistant.....	Tommy Perry
Graduate Assistant.....	Travis Trickett
Graduate Assistant.....	Jeremy Pruitt
Graduate Assistant.....	Lance Taylor

UOFA

Location: Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Founded: April 12, 1831
Enrollment: 25,580
President: Dr. Robert E. Witt (Bates, 1962)
Athletics Director: Mal Moore (Alabama, 1963)
Faculty Chairman: Dr. Joe Hornsby (Alabama, 1976)
Nickname: Crimson Tide
Colors: Crimson and White
Conference: Southeastern (Western Division)
First Year of Football: 1892
Stadium: Bryant-Denny (92,138)
All-Time Football Record: *795-306-44 (71.3%)
2007 Record: 7-6
2007 SEC Record: 4-4
Bowl: Independence
UA 30, Colorado 24
Final Ranking: N/A
Offense: Multiple
Defense: 3-4 Over/Under
*After NCAA forfeits: 788-314-43 (70.7%)

TEAM

Lettermen Returning: 46 (20 Offense, 23 Defense, 3 Specialists)
Lettermen Lost: 23 (11 Offense, 11 Defense, 1 Specialist)
Starters Returning: 17
Offense (9): LT Andre Smith, LG Mike Johnson, C Antoine Caldwell, RG Marlon Davis, TE Nick Walker, QB John Parker Wilson, *FB Baron Huber, TB Terry Grant, WR Mike McCoy, OL Taylor Pharr, OL David Ross, WR Travis Sikes, TE Daniel Wood
Defense (6): NT Lorenzo Washington, DE Brandon Deaderick, SLB Ezekial Knight, MLB Rolando McClain, S Rashad Johnson, CB Kareem Jackson
Special Teams (2): PK Leigh Tiffin, P P.J. Fitzgerald, SN Brian Selman
Other Lettermen Returning
Offense (11): WR Will Oakley, WR Nikita Stover, WR Earl Alexander, C Evan Cardwell, OT Drew Davis, TE Travis McCall, TE Preston Dial, TB Glen Coffee, TB Roy Upchurch, TB Jonathan Lowe, Travis Sikes
Defense (17): LB Eryk Anders, CB Javier Arenas, DE Luther Davis, LB Brandon Fanney, DE Bobby Greenwood, LB Charlie Higgenbotham, *LB Jimmy Johns, Marquis Johnson, Tyrone King, Lionel Mitchell, Brian Motley, Cory Reamer, Chris Rogers, Ali Sharrief, Milton Talbert, Chavis Williams, Justin Woodall
Starters Lost: 7
Offense (2): WR D.J. Hall, LG Justin Britt
Defense (5): DE Wallace Gilberry, LB Darren Mustin, LB Keith Saunders, CB Simeon Castille, SS Marcus Carter
*Baron Huber moved from fullback to linebacker. Jimmy Johns moved from tailback to linebacker.

BY THE NUMBERS

All-Time Southeastern Conference Standings

School	Years	Games	Won-Lost-Tied	Pct.
ALABAMA	74	520	*341-159-20	.675
Tennessee	74	480	*308-153-19	.661
Georgia	75	480	283-185-14	.602
LSU	74	477	268-195-22	.575
Florida	74	463	256-192-15	.569
Auburn	74	491	274-207-18	.567
Mississippi	74	477	232-230-15	.502
Arkansas	16	128	*61-65--2	.484
South Carolina	16	128	*49-78-1	.372
Mississippi State	74	486	*157-316-13	.336
Kentucky	74	479	147-320-12	.319
Vanderbilt	73	487	*114-355-18	.253
Former Members				
Georgia Tech	31	194	115- 70- 9	.616
Tulane	33	195	69-113-13	.387
Sewanee	8	37	0- 37- 0	.000

SEC Championships By Schools

ALABAMA-21 ('33-34t-37-45-53-61t-64-65-66t-71-72-73-74-75-77-78-79-81t-89t-92-99)
 Tennessee-13 ('38-39t-40-46t-51t-56-67-69-85-89t-90-97-98)
 Georgia-12 ('42-46t-48-59-66t-68-76t-80-81t-82-02-05)
 LSU-10 ('35-36-38-61t-70-86-88t-01-03-07)
 Florida-7 ('91-93-94-95-96-00-06)
 Ole Miss-6 ('47-54-55-60-62-63)
 Auburn-6 ('57-83-87-88t-89t-04)
 @Georgia Tech-5 ('39t-43-44-51t-52)
 @Tulane-3 ('34-39t-49)
 Kentucky-2 ('50-76t)
 Mississippi State-1 ('41)
 Vanderbilt-0
 Arkansas-0
 South Carolina-0
 @Sewanee-0
 @Denotes former member of SEC

All-Time Winningest Schools

	Team	W	L	T	Pct.
1.	Michigan	869	286	36	.745
2.	Notre Dame	824	278	42	.739
3.	Texas	823	313	33	.718
4.	Ohio State	797	304	53	.714
5.	Oklahoma	777	297	53	.713
6.	ALABAMA	*787	314	43	.707
7.	Southern Cal	754	303	54	.703
8.	Nebraska	815	333	40	.703
9.	Tennessee	*778	326	55	.695
10.	Penn State	789	347	42	.688

All-Time Bowl

Victories

1.	ALABAMA	31
2.	Southern Cal	30
3.	Penn State	27
4.	Tennessee	25
5.	Oklahoma	24
	Georgia	24
	Texas	24
8.	Nebraska	22
	Georgia Tech	22
10.	Florida State	21
11.	LSU	20
12.	Mississippi	19
13.	Michigan	18
	Ohio State	18
	Miami	18
	Auburn	18

All-Time Bowl

Appearances

1.	ALABAMA	55
2.	Texas	47
	Tennessee	47
4.	Southern Cal	46
5.	Nebraska	44
6.	Georgia	41
7.	Oklahoma	40
8.	Penn State	39
9.	LSU	38
	Ohio State	38
	Michigan	38
12.	Georgia Tech	36
	Florida State	36
14.	Arkansas	35
	Florida	35

All-Time Wins

1.	Michigan	869
2.	Notre Dame	824
3.	Texas	823
4.	Nebraska	810
5.	Ohio State	797
6.	Penn State	789
7.	ALABAMA	*787
8.	Tennessee	*778
9.	Oklahoma	777
10.	Southern Cal	754
11.	Georgia	713
12.	LSU	692
13.	Auburn	676
14.	Syracuse	671
15.	West Virginia	664

*Includes 8 on-the-field Alabama victories and 1 tie listed as losses from 1993 season, games the NCAA forced Alabama to forfeit.

The Crimson Tide



82 Earl Alexander
Sophomore • Wide Receiver

6-5, 210 • Phenix City • Central
Earl Alexander, Alabama's third-most experienced receiver after Nikita Stover and Mike McCoy, is certain to

play a larger role in Alabama's passing game this fall after the departure of last year's senior-laden core. Alexander played in all 13 games last season as a reserve wideout, finishing with four catches for 40 yards – all coming in the season-opener against Western Carolina. In the A-Day game, he made four catches for 28 yards and a touchdown, but his best performance of the spring came in the second scrimmage when he grabbed five passes for 62 yards.



32 Eryk Anders
Junior • Linebacker

6-2, 225 • San Antonio, Texas • Smithson Valley
Eryk Anders is expected to push for playing time at linebacker in '08.

He appeared in 10 games in '07, primarily on special teams, and logged four tackles. He suited up with the first-team defense in the A-Day game and turned in a pair of sacks.



28 Javier Arenas
Junior • Cornerback

5-9, 193 • Tampa, Fla. • Robinson
In two seasons, Javier Arenas has established himself as one of the most dangerous return men in the SEC, if

not the entire country. Last year, when opposing teams dared to kick to him, the smallish, super-smooth Floridian made them pay. He returned 27 kicks for 657 yards – both figures ranking second in Alabama history -- and 21 punts for 323 yards. His 15.4 yards per punt return, also second best in UA history, was second-best in the SEC last year as well as 12th nationally. When not slicing through return lanes last fall, Arenas was seeing action as a reserve defensive back. He tallied 20 tackles, including two for loss, and a pass break-up. What most fans remember him for in '07 was his near single-handed takedown of eventual national champion LSU. Against the Tigers on that November evening, Arenas racked up a career-high 237 all-purpose yards, highlighted by a thrilling 61-yard punt return for a touchdown that sent Bryant-Denny Stadium into a frenzy and gave the Tide a seven-point, fourth-quarter lead. He also had four tackles, one for a loss, and a pass break-up that night. In the spring, Arenas picked off two passes in the first scrimmage, recorded three tackles and a pass break-up in the A-Day game and was

co-recipient of the Jerry Duncan "I Like To Practice" Award. He enters the fall as a serious candidate for a starting spot in the secondary.



43 Sam Burnthall
Junior • Defensive Back

6-2, 185 • Decatur • Decatur
Sam Burnthall is expected to provide depth in the secondary this fall. He saw action in three games –

Vanderbilt, Houston and Colorado – last season and had an assisted tackle and a pass break-up in the A-Day game.



59 Antoine Caldwell
Senior • Center/Guard

6-3, 292 • Montgomery • Lee
A team leader as a junior last season, as evidenced by his being voted a permanent team

captain, three-year starter Antoine Caldwell again figures to lead with both his talk and play as a senior this fall. The All-SEC candidate has started at both center and guard in the past and will be at one of those positions to start '08. He was co-recipient of the Mal Moore Leadership Award in the spring.



70 Evan Cardwell
Junior • Center
6-2, 278 • Killen •
Brooks

If Antoine Caldwell ends up starting at guard instead of center, expect to see Evan Cardwell snapping the ball to John Parker Wilson.

Cardwell started at center in seven of Alabama's final eight games of '07. One of those starts came against Tennessee when Alabama rolled up 510 yards of offense, allowed just one sack and won 41-17.



99 Josh Chapman
Sophomore •
Defensive Tackle
6-1, 300 • Hoover •
Hoover

Josh Chapman is expected to push for playing time on the defensive line this fall, especially after a solid spring

made him co-recipient of the Ozzie Newsome Most Improved Freshman award. Injuries opened the door for him to play in three games early last season. His one tackle came against Western Carolina.



38 Glen Coffee
Junior •
Running Back
6-2, 197 • Fort
Walton Beach, Fla.
• Fort Walton Beach
 Considered the most physical of Alabama's stable of running backs, Glen Coffee

should see his share of carries this fall, whether it's as a starter or not. Staying clear of the injury bug, which has slowed him in the past, may be his biggest challenge. He missed the '06 season because of a knee injury; a shoulder injury limited him this

past spring, keeping him out of the A-Day game. When healthy, Coffee has produced. He was Alabama's second-leading rusher last season, totaling 545 yards and four rushing touchdowns on 129 carries in addition to catching 18 passes out of the backfield for another 142 yards. His best career game came last season against Houston when he ran 30 times for 121 yards and a touchdown. Coffee was named co-recipient of the Derrick Thomas Community Service Award in the spring.



69 Patrick Crump
Freshman
• Offensive
Lineman
6-3, 267 • Hoover •
Hoover

Redshirted as a true freshman last fall, Patrick Crump will provide depth on the offensive

line this fall. Coming out of high school, he was rated the state's No. 18 prospect by SuperPrep.



16 Thomas Darrah
Freshman •
Quarterback
6-5, 190 •
Newnan, Ga.
 Few Tide fans had heard of Thomas Darrah prior to the A-Day game. After the

April 12 scrimmage, the non-scholarshipped signal-caller wasn't quite so anonymous. The tall, lanky quarterback won't be threatening John Parker Wilson anytime soon, but he did outplay third-string quarterback Nick Fanuzzi, completing 8-of-14 passes for 110 yards, including a 44-yard touchdown strike to Marquis Maze. He had no interceptions. Darrah was redshirted as a true freshman in '07.



79 Drew Davis
Junior •
Offensive Tackle
6-8, 276 •
Evergreen •
Sparta Academy

Drew Davis saw action in just one game last season – the season-opener against

Western Carolina. The good-sized offensive tackle will likely see the field much more in '08 after being named a co-recipient of the Bart Starr Most Improved Player Award in the spring.



96 Luther Davis
Sophomore •
Defensive End
6-4, 275 • West
Monroe, La. • West
Monroe

Luther Davis is expected to fight for a starting spot on the defensive line this fall.

He played in three games in '07, registering all his stats – three tackles, including one for a loss – in the season-opener against Western Carolina.



76 Marlon Davis
Senior •
Offensive Guard
6-4, 290 •
Columbus, Ga. •
Carver

Marlon Davis is expected to secure a starting spot at offensive guard

this fall. He played in nine games in '07, starting in eight of those. He was co-recipient of the Sylvester Croom Commitment to Excellence Award in the spring.

THE 2008 CRIMSON TIDE



95 Brandon Deaderick
Junior • Defensive End
6-4, 286 • Elizabethtown, Ky.
• Elizabethtown
Brandon Deaderick will contend for a

starting job at defensive end this fall. Last year, he appeared in 13 games, starting seven. He finished third among Alabama's defensive linemen with 22 tackles, including three for loss and two sacks. He also had three quarterback pressures. His best game came against Louisiana-Monroe when he had a career-high five tackles, including one for loss.



60 Scott Deaton
Junior • Offensive Tackle
6-6, 286 • Birmingham • Oak Mounain
Scott Deaton is expected to provide offensive line depth this fall.

He was a member of the scout team last year.



85 Preston Dial
Sophomore • Tight End
6-3, 223 • Mobile • UMS-Wright
Tight end appears to be one of the deepest positions for the Tide this fall, and Preston Dial is one reason

why. Although he has just one start under his belt, he did see action in 10 games last season and recorded his first career reception, which went for 21 yards, against Louisiana-Monroe. He had two catches for 23 yards in the A-Day game.



98 Brandon Fanney
Junior • Outside Linebacker
6-4, 241 • Morristown, Tenn.
• Morristown-West
Brandon Fanney, who's seen time both at defensive end

and linebacker, has a good chance of earning a starting outside linebacker spot this fall. He played in 10 games in '07, logging a career-high five tackles against Western Carolina. He suited up with the first-team defense in the A-Day game and recorded one tackle for loss and two quarterback hurries.



18 Nick Fanuzzi
Sophomore • Quarterback
6-3, 201 • San Antonio, Texas • Churchill
Nick Fanuzzi begins the fall behind Greg McElroy in

the battle for the Tide's back-up quarterback job. Fanuzzi saw action in Alabama's season-opener against Western Carolina last year but did not attempt a pass. He attempted seven passes in the A-Day game, completing two for 33 yards. He also threw an interception. In the other two spring scrimmages, he was a combined 10-of-19 for 200 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Coming out of high school, the Texas native was rated the No. 18 dual-threat quarterback by Rivals.com.



19 Tarence Farmer
Freshman • Wide Receiver
6-0, 195 • Houston, Texas • St. Pius
A standout defensive back in high school, freshman Tarence Farmer is expected

to add depth to the graduation-depleted receiving corps this fall. He had two catches for 40 yards in Alabama's second scrimmage of the spring.



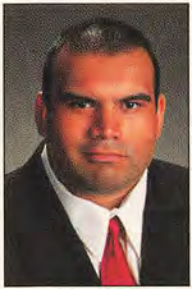
97 P.J. Fitzgerald
Junior • Punter
5-11, 194 • Coral Springs, Fla. • Marjory Stoneman Douglas
P.J. Fitzgerald returns as the Tide's punter after having started the past two seasons.

He registered 64 punts in '07, finishing with a 38.7 yards-per-punt average, 20 punts downed inside the opponent's 20 and eight touchbacks. His best outing came against Mississippi State when he punted four times, booming one 56 yards to help give him a career-best 44.9 yards-per-punt average for the game. He also had two downed inside the 20 against the Bulldogs. Fitzgerald continued to show improvement in the spring, tallying six punts for a 43.3 average in the A-Day game with a long of 52 yards, two downed inside the 20 and one touchback.



81 Andrew Friedman
Junior • Kicker
6-1, 210 • Fairhope • UMS-Wright
As in '07, Andrew Friedman is again expected to provide depth at the kicker position this fall. He

played in one game last season, filling in when starter Leigh Tiffin sustained a minor injury on the opening kickoff.



54 Juan Garnier
Junior • Nose Tackle
6-4, 315 • Everett, Mass.

Juan Garnier, a mammoth transfer who participated in spring drills, is expected to

provide immediate help along the defensive line for Alabama this fall. He had two tackles for the second-team defense in the A-Day game.



58 Nick Gentry
Sophomore • Defensive Lineman
6-3, 263 • Prattville

Nick Gentry will be counted on for defensive line depth this fall. He played in one game

last year – against Georgia.



11 Brandon Gibson
Freshman • Wide Receiver
6-1, 192 • Mobile • UMS-Wright

Brandon Gibson, who redshirted as a true freshman last year, is yet another of Alabama's young

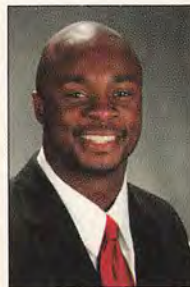
receivers who will be expected to grow up in a hurry this fall. He caught two passes for 21 yards in the A-Day game, following up his two-catch, 36-yard output in the second spring scrimmage.



6 Demetrius Goode
Freshman • Running Back
5-10, 197 • LaGrange, Ga. • LaGrange

Demetrius Goode sat out the '07 season with a knee

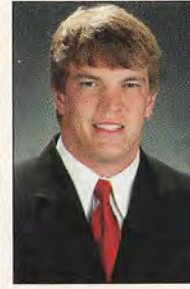
injury but returned to the field for spring drills. He may, however, still be in the process of shaking off the rust. The former Hargrave Military Academy star ran six times for 11 yards in the second spring scrimmage before logging six carries for 17 yards in the A-Day game. He enters fall camp no higher than fourth on the depth chart.



29 Terry Grant
Sophomore • Running Back
5-10, 188 • Lumberton, Miss.

There's a good chance Terry Grant will open the '08 season the same way he opened

the '07 season – as the Tide's starting running back. But even if he doesn't, the sophomore will no doubt spend plenty of time on the playing field because of his speed and pass-catching ability out of the backfield. Grant exploded on the scene early last year, winning SEC Freshman of the Week honors the first three weeks of the season. An injury, which was later diagnosed as a sports hernia, slowed Grant during the second half of '07, but he still finished the season with a team-high 891 yards, an Alabama freshman record. His eight rushing touchdowns was also a UA freshman record. The Mississippi native showed signs of being back to his old self during the spring. He scored two touchdowns in the A-Day game, the second coming on a short pass in the flat that he turned into an electrifying 75-yard sprint down the right sideline that secured him game MVP honors. His combined totals for the other two spring scrimmages were 17 carries for 63 yards and two touchdowns.



93 Bobby Greenwood
Senior • Defensive End
6-5, 257 • Prattville • Prattville

Bobby Greenwood hasn't exactly lived up to the huge expectations placed

on him following his head-turning freshman season, but he hasn't stopped producing either and may secure a starting spot this fall. Last year, he played in 12 of 13 games, starting the first five before missing the Houston game because of injury. He finished the season with 20 tackles, including 4.5 for loss; one sack; and one quarterback hurry. In the spring, he suited up for the first-team defense and totaled two tackles in the A-Day game. He also was a co-recipient of the Sylvester Croom Commitment to Excellence Award.



34 Jeramie Griffin
Freshman • Running Back
6-0, 225 • Batesville, Miss. • South Panola

Jeramie Griffin redshirted as a true freshman last year and will fight for

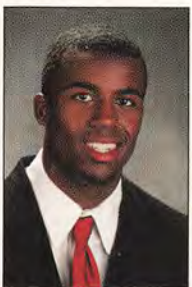
playing time this fall behind a group of more experienced running backs. He only had three carries for minus-four yards in the A-Day game. He was rated as the No. 3 fullback by Scout.com coming out of high school.

THE 2008 CRIMSON TIDE



21 Prince Hall
Junior •
Linebacker
5-11, 265 • Moreno
Valley, Calif. •
Moreno Valley
Currently
indefinitely
suspended, Prince
Hall would provide

an important boost in both talent and experience to the linebacking corps if he does what he needs to do to return to coach Nick Saban's good graces and earn reinstatement. After his Freshman All-America season in '06, Hall slumped some in '07. He participated in 11 games, started five, and logged 58 tackles, one interception, one pass break-up and six quarterback hurries. He missed spring drills because of his suspension.



15 Darius Hanks
Freshman • Wide
Receiver
6-0, 190 • Norcross,
Ga. • Norcross
Darius Hanks
was another one
of those names
that wasn't too
recognizable to

Tide fans – until the spring. That's when the Georgia native began turning heads with his pass-catching prowess. He had four catches for a game-high 102 yards and a touchdown in the A-Day game to go along with the strong performances he had in the two earlier scrimmages. He had three catches for 40 yards in the first scrimmage and two catches for 39 yards and a touchdown in the second. Not surprisingly, Hanks was co-recipient of the Ozzie Newsome Most Improved Freshman Award in the spring and will try and continue his rapid rise this fall.



42 Jennings Hester
Freshman •
Linebacker
6-2, 224 • Atlanta,
Ga.
Jennings Hester
redshirted as a
true freshman
last year but will
have the chance

to contribute this fall in Alabama's thin linebacking corps. Hester suited up with the first-team defense in the A-Day game and registered a sack.



45 Charlie
Higgenbotham
Sophomore
• Middle
Linebacker
6-1, 211 •
Birmingham •
Mountain Brook
Charlie

Higgenbotham will

battle for playing time at linebacker this fall. Last year, he saw action in 10 games, including each of the last nine, and tallied 12 tackles, including eight solo stops. The Birmingham native turned in a solid A-Day performance in the spring, logging five solo tackles, three assisted tackles, one sack and a quarterback hurry for the second-team defense. He also stood out in the first spring scrimmage, recording six tackles and a quarterback hurry.



40 Baron Huber
Junior •
Linebacker
6-3, 242 •
Knoxville, Tenn. •
Powell

Baron Huber
made the switch
from fullback to
linebacker in the

spring and hopes to find a spot in the playing rotation this fall. Last year, as a member of the offense, he played in all 13 games, earning a start against Vanderbilt. He recorded one catch and one special teams tackle.



86 Chris Jackson
Freshman • Wide
Receiver
6-1, 190 •
McDonough, Ga.
Chris Jackson
signed with
Alabama as part
of the '08 class
but enrolled early,

enabling him to participate in spring practice. As a high school senior last fall, he caught 76 passes for 1,470 yards and 19 touchdowns to go along with five rushing touchdowns. He was named 3A Offensive Player of the Year in the state of Georgia.



3 Kareem Jackson
Sophomore •
Cornerback
5-11, 185 • Macon,
Ga. • Westside
It appears a
budding star may
be roaming the
Alabama secondary
in the form of

Kareem Jackson. As a true freshman last season, Jackson earned starts in 12 of 13 games and finished second on the team with three interceptions and fourth with four pass break-ups. He also logged 66 tackles. His most memorable performance came in the Tide's 41-17 romp over Tennessee when he intercepted two passes, one of which halted a key Tennessee scoring drive deep in Alabama territory. The Georgia native, whom Sporting News named a second-team Freshman All-American in '07, continued his solid play in the spring. He had three tackles, including one for loss, and a pass break-up in the A-Day game and received the Bobby Johns Defensive Back Award.



10 Jimmy Johns
Senior •
Linebacker
6-2, 233 •
Brookhaven, Miss.
• Brookhaven

After beginning his career at Alabama as a quarterback and spending his

first three seasons as a running back, it looks like Jimmy Johns will finish his career at the Capstone as a linebacker. Johns, who had already demonstrated his hitting ability on special teams, made the switch just prior to the Independence Bowl last season and showed plenty of promise in the spring. He suited up with the first-team defense in the A-Day game and recorded four tackles, including one for loss, to go along with the four tackles he had in the second spring scrimmage. Those efforts helped earn him the Woodrow Lowe Linebacker Award. It also should be noted that the senior does have a redshirt year still available to him if he decides he needs more time to master the position. As a reserve running back in '07, Johns had 17 carries for 69 yards and caught three passes for 41 yards.



24 Marquis Johnson
Junior •
Cornerback
5-11, 186 •
Sarasota, Fla. •
Booker

Marquis Johnson is expected to compete for

playing time in the secondary this fall. As a reserve cornerback last season, Johnson saw action in nine games and finished with four tackles, one pass break-up and a fumble recovery. His best showing in the spring came in the second scrimmage when he recorded four tackles.



78 Mike Johnson
Junior • Offensive
Guard
6-6, 298 •
Pensacola, Fla. •
Pine Forest

He's not flashy and rarely makes headlines but returning starter

Mike Johnson has developed into a reliable, steady and even versatile performer on the offensive line. He was one of only two players – Andre Smith being the other – to start in all 13 games in '07. He started at right tackle in 10 games and at right guard in three. In the spring, Johnson was singled out by Coach Nick Saban for his solid play in the first scrimmage and then went on to become a co-recipient of the Paul Crane Offensive Lineman Award.



49 Rashad Johnson
Senior • Safety
6-0, 187 • Sulligent
• Sulligent

It's hard to believe Rashad Johnson was once a little known, walk-on running back early in his career at Alabama.

The Sulligent native now enters his senior season as the vocal leader of the defense, a returning team captain and a returning first-team All-SEC selection at safety. Last year he led the Tide with 81 tackles and his six interceptions was tied for tops in the SEC and tied for 10th nationally. In the spring, it was more of the same as Johnson picked off two passes in the A-Day game to go along with a pair of tackles. He was a co-recipient of the Mal Moore Leadership Award.



39 Tyrone King
Junior •
Cornerback
5-11, 204 •
Birmingham
 Tyrone King's claim to fame so far in his Alabama career is what he did to Arkansas'

Darren McFadden last fall. He not only tackled the two-time Heisman runner-up, he ripped the ball out of his arms and recovered the fumble. King hopes to have the opportunity to make more such plays this fall. He appeared in 12 games in '07, mostly on special teams, but may earn more game time in the secondary this season. A strong A-Day game showing – three tackles, one forced fumble, one interception – and the fact that he was co-recipient of the Bear Bryant Outstanding Non-Scholarship Player Award certainly didn't hurt his chances. King played at Grambling State in '05 before sitting out the '06 season after transferring to Alabama.



35 Charlie Kirschman
Sophomore •
Linebacker
6-2, 228 • St.
Augustine, Fla. •
Nease

Charlie Kirschman enters the fall as a reserve linebacker.

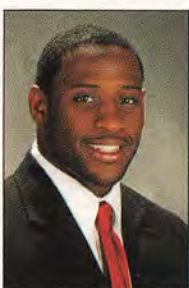
The former high school teammate of Tim Tebow didn't see game action in '07.

THE 2008 CRIMSON TIDE



47 Ezekial Knight
Senior •
Linebacker
6-4, 235 • Wedowee
• Randolph County
After accepting a medical redshirt in '06 due to health problems, Ezekial Knight bounced

back nicely to have a productive '07. He played in all 13 games last year, finishing second on the team in tackles-for-loss (11) and sacks (three). He also logged 64 tackles, two interceptions, three pass break-ups, five quarterback pressures, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery. The Wedowee native, who spent the first half of his Alabama career as a receiver, was slowed by more health problems in the spring.



30 Jonathan Lowe
Senior • Running
Back
5-7, 184 • Phenix
City • Central
One of Alabama's fastest and quickest players, Jonathan Lowe is listed as a reserve running

back but will likely make more noise this season as a return specialist. The diminutive playmaker saw action in 10 games last year, missing two games because of an ankle injury. He finished with 24 carries for 99 yards, 14 kick returns for 277 yards and four punt returns for 51 yards. In the spring, Lowe rushed three times for 14 yards in the first scrimmage and four times for 19 yards in the A-Day game. Lowe sat out the '06 season after transferring from Mississippi State.



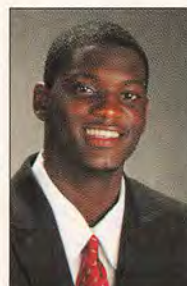
4 Marquis Maze
Freshman • Wide
Receiver
5-9, 167 • Tarrant
• Tarrant
After earning some rave reviews during fall camp last year, Marquis Maze kind of disappeared

into redshirt exile for a few months before becoming part of the wide receiver conversation again in the spring. He had three catches for 17 yards in the first scrimmage before stepping up even more in the A-Day game with four catches for 58 yards and a touchdown. He'll push to enter the rotation at receiver this fall. An all-around athlete, Maze starred at running back, quarterback, receiver, defensive back and punt/kick returner in high school.



83 Travis McCall
Senior • Tight End
6-2, 261 • Prattville
• Prattville
In one of Alabama's deepest positions – tight end, Travis McCall figures to earn a good chunk of the playing time.

He played in all 13 games in '07 and started in eight games in the double tight end set. He ended the year with six catches for 45 yards with his best game coming against Tennessee when he caught three passes for 21 yards. In the spring, he had three catches for 30 yards in the first scrimmage and two catches for 39 yards in the A-Day game. He was a co-recipient of the Jerry Duncan "I Like To Practice" Award.



25 Rolando McClain
Sophomore
• Middle
Linebacker
6-4, 255 • Decatur
Alabama has a long history of great linebackers. Rolando McClain

gave every indication during his first season wearing crimson that he might very well join that elite group before he's through. The Sporting News named him a first-team Freshman All-American. And with good reason. McClain played in all 13 games, earning eight starts, and finished with 75 tackles, five tackles for loss, one sack, four pass break-ups, three quarterback hurries and two interceptions. He recorded a career-high 15 tackles and made his first career interception against Auburn and then perhaps made the biggest statement of the type of player he is in the bowl game when he sustained and then fought through both a broken thumb and separated shoulder to turn in yet another all-star caliber performance against Colorado. The Decatur product showed no signs of slowing down in the spring. He had six tackles and two pass break-ups in the first scrimmage; five tackles, one pass break-up, two sacks and one quarterback hurry in the second scrimmage; and four tackles, including one for loss, in the A-Day game. He received the Lee Roy Jordan Headhunter Award.



80 Mike McCoy
Junior • Wide
Receiver
6-3, 199 • Rankin,
Miss. • Northwest
Rankin

Mike McCoy's time may have finally arrived. The junior receiver,

overshadowed by a bevy of upperclassmen the past two seasons, could very well be John Parker Wilson's new favorite target now that DJ Hall has moved on. Actually, the Mississippi native started stepping into his own last year when he finished as the team's third-leading receiver with 28 catches for 207 yards. His best game came against Georgia when he had six receptions for 47 yards. More proof that McCoy, the team's top returning pass-catcher, is ready for a bigger role in '08 came in the spring. He had four catches for 43 yards in the first scrimmage; four catches for 92 yards in the second scrimmage; and a game-high six catches for 101 yards in the A-Day game. He was the recipient of the Ray Perkins Receiver Award.



52 Alfred
McCullough
Freshman •
Defensive End
6-2, 317 • Athens

Tide fans not familiar with the name Alfred McCullough might want to go ahead

and get familiar with it. McCullough, only a sophomore, turned in a spring showing that could very well be a hint of bigger things to come. The previously little-known defensive end participated in just one game last season as a true freshman but raised some eyebrows in a pair of spring scrimmages. In the second scrimmage he logged five tackles, one sack, one tackle for loss and one quarterback hurry. He followed that up by recording six tackles, two pass break-ups and one sack in the A-Day game. The latter effort made him the winner of the Dwight Stephenson Most Valuable Lineman of the A-Day Game Award.



12 Greg McElroy
Sophomore •
Quarterback
6-3, 218 •
Southlake, Texas
•Carroll

Greg McElroy will start fall camp in the role of what some

like to describe as Alabama fans' favorite player – the Tide's back-up quarterback. Of course, how intensely fans clamor to see McElroy will depend on the play of John Parker Wilson, but the good news is that McElroy has at least given fans reason to feel optimistic if and when he does step in under center this fall. In limited action last season, McElroy was 8-of-9 for 73 yards and a touchdown. He had a rough start in the spring in Alabama's new offense but did show improvement in each of the three scrimmages. In the last of those scrimmages, the A-Day game, McElroy was 12-of-26 for 196 yards with one interception and one touchdown.



16 Lionel Mitchell
Senior •
Cornerback
6-2, 182 • Stone
Mountain, Ga. •
Stephenson

Lionel Mitchell, assuming he's healthy, goes into fall camp as a

legitimate contender for one of the starting spots in the secondary. He played in 11 games in '07, earning starts in seven. His final stats included 33 tackles, one interception and two pass break-ups. His best performance came against Georgia when he had six tackles and had an interception. While the senior has experience working in his favor, the fact that he missed spring drills because of injury means he has some ground to make up.



66 Brian Motley
Sophomore
• Defensive
Lineman
6-2, 280 •
Autaugaville •
Autaugaville
 Brian Motley hopes to accomplish during this fall

camp what he accomplished in last year's fall camp – earn a starting spot on the defensive line. What he doesn't want to repeat is the broken ankle he suffered just prior to the season that put him out of commission for the first four games. He came back last year to see action in the Tide's remaining eight games, earning a start against Louisiana-Monroe. He ended the season with 11 tackles, including three solo stops, one quarterback hurry and 2.5 tackles-for-loss.



7 Will Oakley
Senior • Wide
Receiver
6-1, 196 • Ponte
Vedra Beach, Fla. •
Nease

So far Will Oakley's career has been marked mostly by injury. A productive

senior campaign would go a long way in erasing, at least to some degree, some of those past trials and tribulations. Last year, he played in 10 games as a reserve wideout and caught one pass – a 16-yard reception against Arkansas. Injuries again hampered the Florida native this past spring. Oakley's most productive season came in '06 when he had 18 catches for 223 yards filling in for an injured Keith Brown.

THE 2008 CRIMSON TIDE



84 Colin Peek
Junior • Tight End
6-6, 250 •
Jacksonville, Fla.
 A transfer from Georgia Tech, Colin Peek wasted little time in making a positive impact in his first spring with

the Tide. The hard-to-miss tight end target had five catches for 63 yards in the second scrimmage and one catch for 26 yards in the A-Day game.



68 Taylor Pharr
Sophomore •
Offensive Tackle
6-6, 281 • Irondale
• Shades Valley
 Taylor Pharr is expected to push for playing time on the offensive line this fall. As a

redshirt freshman last season, he saw action in five games, mostly as a special teams member.



13 Cory Reamer
Junior •
Linebacker
6-4, 223 • Hoover •
Hoover

An excellent spring showing may have put Cory Reamer in position to earn some valuable

game time this fall, assuming he can pick up where he left off. After seeing mostly special teams action in all 13 games in '07 and recording two tackles, Reamer seemed to raise his game to another level in the spring. He registered two tackles, one interception and one sack in the first spring scrimmage; three tackles, one sack and one tackle for loss in the second scrimmage; and six tackles, one pass break-up and two quarterback hurries in the A-Day game. Apparently, off the field, he was just as good. He was a co-recipient of the Derrick Thomas Community Service Award.



8 Chris Rogers
Junior • Defensive
Back
6-0, 192 •
Lakeland, Fla.

Chris Rogers is expected to push for playing time in the secondary this fall. He saw action

in nine games last season and tallied 10 tackles, including seven solo stops. A good A-Day performance – five tackles, one fumble recovery, two pass break-ups – showed Rogers may indeed be ready for an increased role this season.



74 David Ross
Sophomore •
Offensive Guard
6-4, 297 •
Homewood •
Homewood

David Ross will try and earn some playing time on the offensive line

this fall. The game action he saw last year came mostly on special teams, including participation on field goal and extra-point units.



50 Brian Selman
Senior • Snapper
6-0, 218 • Vestavia
Hills • Vestavia
Hills

Brian Selman returns as the Tide's snapper on punts and field goal attempts. Last year,

Selman and Co. allowed just one punt block all season.



44 Corey Smith
Freshman •
Kicker/Punter
6-0, 190 • Bunker
Hill, W. Va.

Corey Smith, who can both kick and punt, was an early high school graduate who

entered The University at mid-term and participated in spring drills at Alabama. He made a 20-yarder and missed a 27-yarder in the first scrimmage. In the second scrimmage, he connected from 40 and 26 and missed from 37.



26 Ali Sharrief
Junior • Safety
5-9, 197 •
Stevenson • North
Jackson

Looks like Ali Sharrief is catching on to this defense thing pretty quick. Quick enough, in

fact, that a starting job isn't out of the question. The former reserve running back made the switch to the defensive secondary during last year's fall camp and saw action in all 13 games as a fifth defensive back. He also got in on special teams. He finished the season with 21 tackles, including one for loss, to go with one quarterback hurry and a pass break-up. The Stevenson native continued to impress in the spring, registering one tackle, one interception and a pass break-up in the first scrimmage before collecting eight tackles – tied for game-high with Charlie Higginbotham – and a blocked kick in the A-Day game.



71 Andre Smith
Junior • Offensive
Tackle
6-5, 340 •
Birmingham •
Huffman

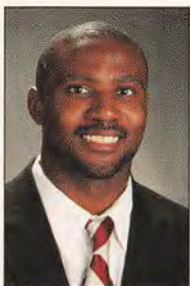
Mike Shula's prize recruit in 2006 hasn't disappointed. Smith started every

game as a true freshman in '06 and then started every game again last year as a sophomore en route to earning First Team All-SEC status. He was also awarded the Jacobs Blocking trophy and is up this season, along with teammate Antoine Caldwell, for the Outland Trophy. In the spring, the Huffman product, to no one's surprise, earned individual praise from Coach Nick Saban and was co-recipient of the Paul Crane Offensive Lineman Award.



48 Travis Sikes
Sophomore • Wide
Receiver
6-2, 194 •
Nashville,
Tenn. • Christ
Presbyterian
 Travis Sikes is expected to provide depth at the

receiver position this fall. He saw special teams action in five games in '07.



9 Nikita Stover
Senior • Wide
Receiver
6-0, 207 • Hartselle
• Hartselle
 Nikita Stover enters fall camp as Alabama's second-most experienced receiver on roster,

so he certainly has the chance to step into a key contributor role this fall. Nagging injuries, however, set him back some in the spring, and he was unable to participate in the A-Day game. In '07, he played in 11 games, earning starts in three. He finished with 10 catches for 131 yards and two touchdowns, the second coming in the bowl game.



90 Milton Talbert
Sophomore •
Defensive End
6-3, 252 •
Hattiesburg, Miss.
•Hattiesburg
 Milton Talbert is expected to provide depth on the defensive front

this fall. He played in four games in '07, registering one assisted tackle and a fumble recovery.



98 Heath Thomas
Junior • Punter
6-3, 213 •
Montgomery
 Heath Thomas, a junior transfer, participated in spring drills at Alabama. He had four punts for a

37.3 yards-per-punt average in the first scrimmage; six punts for 38.3 yards, including one downed inside the 20, in the second scrimmage; five punts for 35.2 yards with one touchback in the A-Day game. He also had a 48-yard field goal attempt blocked in the A-Day game.



99 Leigh Tiffin
Junior • Kicker
6-1, 198 • Muscle
Shoals • Muscle
Shoals

Over the course of the '07 season, Leigh Tiffin went from being simply the Tide's starting

kicker to one of the most reliable kickers in the SEC. Fans went from being cautiously optimistic when he attempted a field goal early in the year to being surprised if he didn't make the field goal late in the year. In the process, Tiffin turned out one of the best seasons any kicker has ever had at Alabama, which is saying a lot considering some of the great kickers who have come through the Capstone. He finished 25-of-34 on field goal attempts and a perfect 36-of-36 on extra points. His 1.92 field goals per game average placed him second in the SEC and seventh nationally. His 10 field goals of 40 yards or more was tops in the SEC, and his 111 points for a season by a kicker and his 25 field goals in a season were both UA records. In the spring's first scrimmage, Tiffin made field goal attempts of 49, 22 and 47 yards and missed from 47 and 40. He made a 51-yarder in the second scrimmage and a 44-yarder in the A-Day game. He was named a co-recipient of the Bear Bryant Outstanding Non-Scholarship Player Award.



87 Chris
Underwood
Freshman • Tight
End
6-4, 226 •
Birmingham •
Vestavia Hills
 After redshirting as a true freshman last year, Chris

Underwood will be counted on to provide depth at the tight end position this fall. He had one catch for seven yards in the A-Day game.

THE 2008 CRIMSON TIDE



5 Roy Upchurch
Junior • Running
Back
6-0, 192 •
Tallahassee, Fla. •
Godby

Perhaps Alabama's most complete running back, Roy Upchurch has more

size than Terry Grant and more quickness than Glen Coffee. The key for Upchurch is staying healthy, and if he can do that, he may be in for a breakout season in '08. He's certainly shown glimpses of what he's capable of throughout his career thus far. Last season, he played in 12 games as a reserve running back and special teams player and finished third on the team in rushing with 237 yards and one touchdown on 50 carries. He also caught seven passes for 51 yards. His best day of the spring came in the second scrimmage when he rushed 11 times for 80 yards and two touchdowns. In the other two scrimmages, including the A-Day game, he had a combined 18 carries for 66 yards.



44 Jacob Vane
Sophomore •
Fullback
6-1, 232 • Oak
Ridge, Tenn.

Jacob Vane will add depth to the Tide's fullback position this fall. He did not

have a carry in any of the spring scrimmages.



73 William Vlachos
Freshman •
Offensive
Lineman
6-1, 295 •
Birmingham •
Mountain Brook
William Vlachos will be counted

on to provide depth on the offensive line this season. He got his first taste of college football last season when he appeared in the Tide's season-opening win over Western Carolina.



88 Nick Walker
Senior • Tight End
6-5, 255 •
Brundidge • Pike
County

OK, it's starting to sound like the boy who cried 'Wolf!' but it appears this really may be the season

that an Alabama tight end is involved enough in the offense to have a breakout season. Nick Walker, who brings plenty of experience and pass-catching ability to the tight end position, is back as the Tide's starter, and based on what he did in Alabama's new offense in the spring, it appears he could be in for a big year. He had a game-high eight catches for 57 yards and a touchdown in the second scrimmage and a team-high five catches for 69 yards in the A-Day game. Last season, Walker had 23 catches – fifth best on the team – for 204 yards and two touchdowns.



97 Lorenzo Washington
Junior • Defensive
Tackle
6-4, 283 •
Loganville, Ga. •
Grayson

Talk about taking advantage of opportunity.

Noseguard Lorenzo Washington was pressed into duty last season because of an injury to starter Brian Motley, and Washington has been blossoming ever since. He ended up starting 12 of 13 games in '07 and finished second among defensive linemen in tackles with 36. He also recorded 4.5 tackles-for-loss, three sacks and two quarterback hurries, and in one of Alabama's biggest games of the year – against eventual national champion LSU – he turned in a career-high five tackles. It was more of the same in the spring as the Georgia native logged four tackles, two sacks, one pass break-up and one tackle for loss in the first scrimmage and added another tackle for loss in the A-Day game. His continued progress in the spring earned him the Billy Neighbors Defensive Lineman Award.



91 Alex Watkins
Freshman •
Linebacker
6-3, 218 •
Brownsville, Tenn. •
Haywood

Alex Watkins was redshirted as a true freshman last year and will likely be

a special teams contributor this fall. He demonstrated plenty of potential in the A-Day game, recording four tackles, one tackle-for-loss, one sack and one quarterback hurry.



55 Chavis Williams
Sophomore •
Defensive End/
Linebacker
6-4, 214 • Dora •
Dora

Special teams is where Chavis

Williams figures to

make the bulk of his contributions in '08. The reserve defensive end/linebacker appeared in eight games in '07, mostly as a special teams member. He recorded two tackles. In the A-Day game, he tallied one tackle, one tackle-for-loss, one sack and one quarterback hurry.



14 John Parker Wilson
Senior •
Quarterback
6-2, 213 • Hoover •
Hoover

John Parker Wilson returns for his third year as Alabama's starting

quarterback, and, it should be noted, under his third different offensive coordinator. Despite not looking as comfortable in the '07 offense as he did the '06 offense, the Hoover product once again put up some impressive passing numbers. He completed 55.2 percent of his passes for 2,846 yards and 18 touchdowns to go with 12 interceptions. His 218.9 passing yards

per game and 226.9 total yards offense per game were both fourth-best in the SEC. Also noteworthy is the fact that in '07 he broke his own single-season school records in total plays, pass attempts, completions, passing yards and touchdown passes that he set the previous season. His best game last year came against Tennessee when he completed 32-of-46 passes for 363 yards and three touchdowns. In the spring, Wilson showed steady progress in picking up new offensive coordinator Jim McElwain's offense. He was only 15-of-36 for 151 yards and an interception in the first scrimmage but then improved to 17-of-33 for 216 yards with one touchdown and an interception in the second scrimmage. His best performance came in the A-Day game when he was 17-of-34 with three touchdowns and one interception. He received the Johnny Musso Offensive Back Award.



27 Justin Woodall
Junior • Safety
6-2, 224 • Oxford,
Miss. • Lafayette
County

Justin Woodall, one of the pleasant surprises in the spring, is expected to vie

for significant playing time in the secondary this fall and perhaps even a secure a starting spot. He played in five games last year as both a special teams player and reserve defensive back, but it wasn't until the spring that he really began turning heads. In the first scrimmage, he had five tackles, one interception and one pass break-up and added another tackle, fumble recovery and two pass break-ups in the A-Day game. He was named a co-recipient of the Bart Starr Most Improved Player Award.

ALABAMA BOWL HISTORY

APPEARANCES: 55 RECORD: 31-21-3

SEASON	AP BOWL	FINAL RESULT	RECORD	RANK
1925	1926 ROSE	UA 20, WASHINGTON 19	10-0-0	N/A
1926	1927 ROSE	UA 7, Stanford 7	9-0-1	N/A
1930	1931 ROSE	UA 24, WASHINGTON STATE 0	10-0-0	N/A
1934	1935 ROSE	UA 29, STANFORD 13	10-0-0	N/A
1937	1938 ROSE	California 13, UA 0	9-1-0	4
1941	1942 COTTON	UA 29, Texas A&M 21	9-2-0	20
1942	1943 ORANGE	UA 37, Boston College 21	8-3	10
1944	1945 SUGAR	Duke 29, UA 26	5-2-2	NR
1945	1946 ROSE	UA 34, SOUTHERN CAL 14	10-0-0	2
1947	1948 SUGAR	Texas 27, UA 7	8-3	6
1952	1953 ORANGE	UA 61, Syracuse 6	10-2	9
1953	1954 COTTON	Rice 28, UA 6	6-3-3	13
1959	1959 LIBERTY	Penn State 7, UA 0	7-2-2	10
1960	1960 BLUEBONNET	UA 3, Texas 3	8-1-2	9
1961	1962 SUGAR	UA 10, ARKANSAS 3	11-0-0	1
1962	1963 ORANGE	UA 17, Oklahoma 0	10-1-0	6
1963	1964 SUGAR	UA 12, Mississippi 7	9-2-0	8
1964	1965 ORANGE	TEXAS 21, UA 17	10-1-0	1
1965	1966 ORANGE	UA 39, NEBRASKA 28	9-1-1	1
1966	1967 SUGAR	UA 34, Nebraska 7	11-0-0	3
1967	1968 COTTON	Texas A&M 20, UA 16	8-2-1	8
1968	1968 GATOR	Missouri 35, UA 10	8-3-0	17
1969	1969 LIBERTY	Colorado 47, UA 33	6-5-0	NR
1970	1970 BLUEBONNET	UA 24, Oklahoma 24	6-5-1	NR
1971	1972 ORANGE	Nebraska 38, UA 6	11-1-0	4
1972	1973 COTTON	Texas 17, UA 13	10-2-0	7
1973	1973 SUGAR	NOTRE DAME 24, UA 23	11-1-0	4
1974	1975 ORANGE	Notre Dame 13, UA 11	11-1-0	5
1975	1975 SUGAR	UA 13, Penn State 6	11-1-0	3
1976	1976 LIBERTY	UA 36, UCLA 6	9-3-0	11
1977	1978 SUGAR	UA 35, Ohio State 6	11-1-0	2
1978	1979 SUGAR	UA 14, PENN STATE 7	11-1-0	1
1979	1980 SUGAR	UA 24, ARKANSAS 9	12-0-0	1
1980	1981 COTTON	UA 30, Baylor 2	10-2-0	6
1981	1982 COTTON	Texas 14, UA 12	9-2-1	7
1982	1982 LIBERTY	UA 21, Illinois 15	8-4-0	NR
1983	1983 SUN	UA 28, SMU 7	8-4-0	15
1985	1985 ALOHA	UA 24, Southern Cal 3	9-2-1	13
1986	1986 SUN	UA 28, Washington 6	10-3-0	9
1987	1988 Hall Of Fame	Michigan 28, UA 24	7-5-0	NR
1988	1988 SUN	UA 29, Army 28	9-3-0	17
1989	1990 SUGAR	Miami 33, UA 25	10-2-0	9
1990	1991 FIESTA	Louisville 34, UA 7	7-5-0	NR
1991	1991 BLOCKBUSTER	UA 30, Colorado 25	11-1-0	5
1992	1993 SUGAR	UA 34, MIAMI 13	13-0-0	1
1993	1993 GATOR	UA 24, North Carolina 10	9-3-1	14
1994	1995 CITRUS	UA 24, Ohio State 17	12-1	5
1996	1997 OUTBACK	UA 17, Michigan 14	10-3	11
1998	1998 MUSIC CITY	Virginia Tech 38, UA 7	7-5	NR
1999	2000 ORANGE	Michigan 35, UA 34 (OT)	10-3	8
2001	2001 INDEPENDENCE	UA 14, Iowa State 13	7-5	NR
2004	2004 MUSIC CITY	Minnesota 20, UA 16	6-6	NR
2005	2006 COTTON BOWL	UA 13, Texas Tech 10	10-2	
2006	2006 INDEPENDENCE	Oklahoma State 34, UA 31	6-7	NR
2007	2007 INDEPENDENCE	UA 30, Colorado 24	7-6	NR

UNDEFEATED, UNTIED BAMA TEAMS WINNING MAJOR BOWL GAMES
AND SOME FORM OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

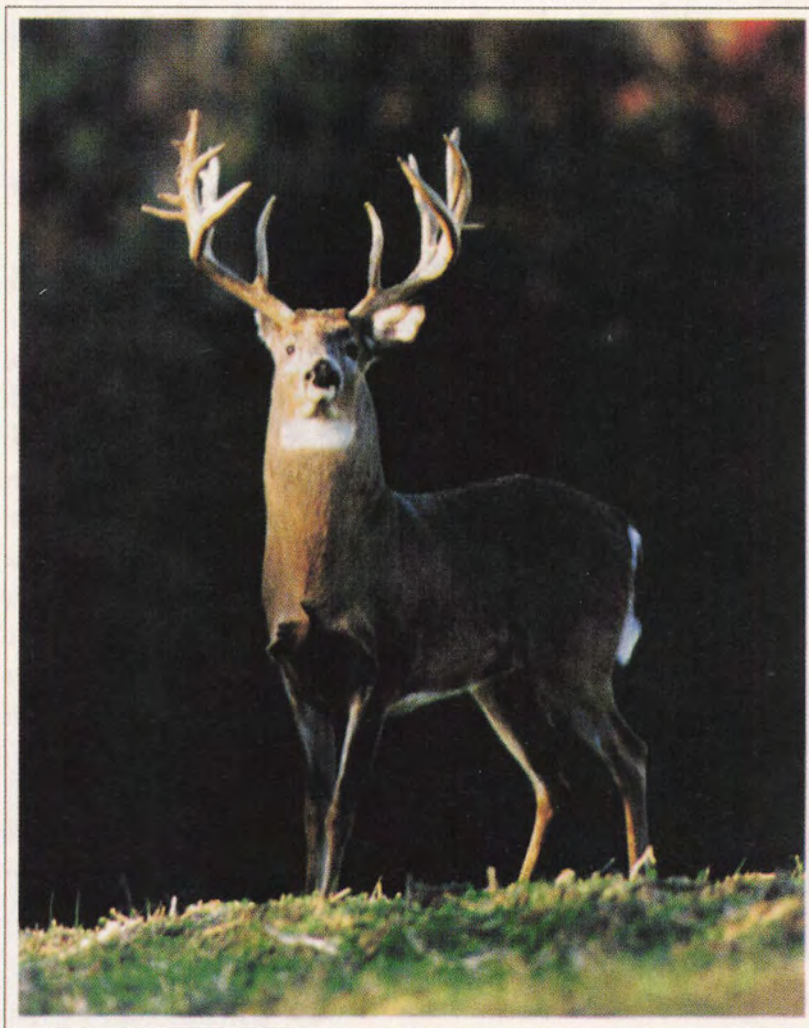
The time. The place.

Opening the door to opportunity is easier when you have the key.

We know, because for more than 80 years we've been helping people find the way to invest in land for recreation, weekend escapes or a country home. We're your locally-owned and operated Alabama Federal Land Bank Associations.

You won't find a better understanding of the value of land, or a deeper appreciation of your desire to own a piece of it.

In the end, we provide more than just the means to buy property. We help people open the door when opportunity knocks.



The ways and means.



Part of the fabric of rural life.



**Federal Land Bank
of North Alabama, FLCA**
1-888-305-0074
www.AlabamaLandBank.com

**Federal Land Bank
of South Alabama, FLCA**
1-800-579-5471
www.AlabamaLandLoan.com



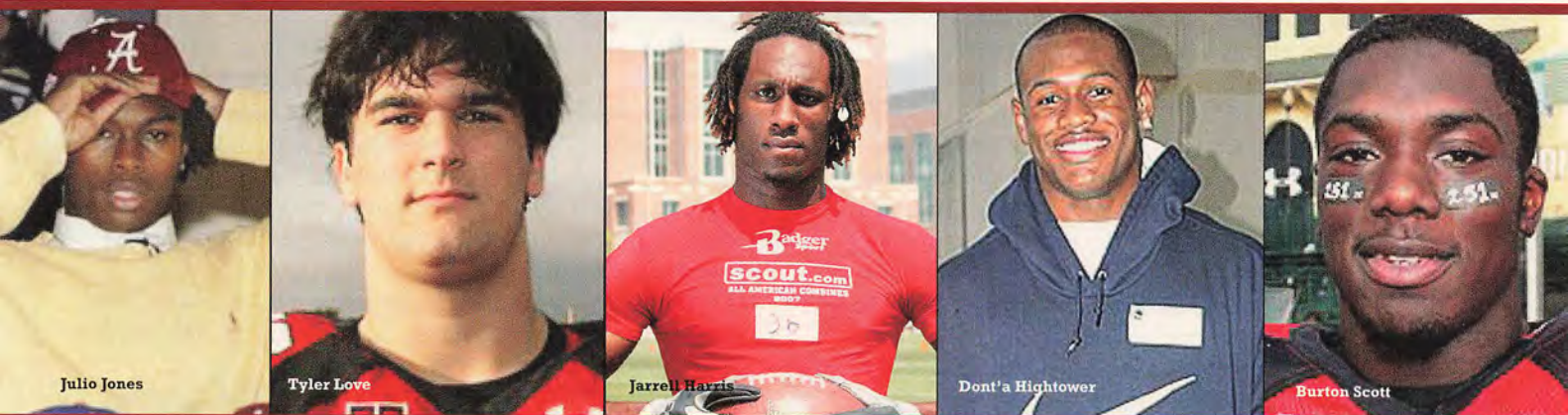
How Much Help?

Alabama welcomes top recruiting class

There are two primary factors in a football player getting onto the field in his true freshman year. The first factor is the player having what it takes. Obviously, that encompasses first and foremost his ability to perform at the level. But it also involves his make-up. Does he have the intestinal fortitude necessary to achieve? Does he have the maturity to handle all the responsibilities that go with being away from home and

Although it is a generalization, not many good teams have a true freshman at quarterback. And even though Alabama has had a history of offensive linemen getting starting time as freshmen, that is considered another tough task for a rookie.

Historically, more freshmen see quick action as a member of special teams than as offensive or defensive position players. There is no reason to suspect that several



having to maintain academic standards?

Not many freshman football players can help a good team.

Which brings us to the second primary factor in freshman participation. Does the team need help at the position he plays? A team isn't looking for freshman help at a position where it has its greatest quality and depth. Along with this, there are certain positions that lend themselves more to a freshman being able to play quickly. Generally speaking, these are the so-called "skill" positions.

Coaches believe that wide receivers and running backs and kickers have the best chance of playing quickly. So much of what they do is based on the physical attributes they have to do it. Defensive backs seem to be able to make a quick adjustment in many cases. Overall, defense may be easier to play as a true freshman because it involves so much instinct and reaction, as opposed to the carefully choreographed offensive plays.

signees won't find playing time with the kick coverage and return teams.

Sometimes the situation changes. A team may seem to have a position that is in good shape, but the nature of college and of football can change things. A player or two is lost to injury or academics or discipline or girlfriend or some other reason and suddenly help is needed from the recruits.

In a perfect college football world, a team would have enough good players at every position that it could hold out every freshman. And each of those freshmen would be good enough to play if needed. No matter where you think they might be just reloading instead of rebuilding—Southern Cal, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, wherever—there is no team with that ideal situation.

A team with a number of top players returning and with a good recruiting class, though, is not unusual. That is a

Photos Scout

reasonable goal for Alabama.

Coach Saban is on the right road, but no one would suggest Alabama is to the point of having enough good players.

There would be nothing to gain for Saban to indicate his thought process in his most recent recruiting class. Obviously, it was a good one, ranked number one in the nation. Saban obviously went after the best players available and got more than his share of them. But are they players meant to build the program or players needed for the 2008 team?

A reasonable answer is "some of both."

Any discussion of freshman help seems to start with Alabama's most ballyhooed signee coming in at a position where there were severe graduation losses.

D.J. Hall, Bama's all-time leading receiver, Keith Brown and Matt Caddell were senior wide receivers on last year's Crimson Tide. Julio Jones of Foley was ranked as the nation's top wide receiver, and he signed with Alabama. Ergo, Julio Jones will start at wide receiver, you say. But not so fast. Jones may very well earn playing time, or even a starting position, but the key is he will have to earn it. And he'll have to compete not only with some fine returning wide receivers—Mike McCoy, Nikita Stover, Darius Hanks, Earl Alexander, Marquis Maze and Will Oakley—but also with his fellow incoming freshmen wide receiver candidates.

Jones may be the man, but Melvin Ray, B. J. Scott and Devonta Bolton all have impressive credentials. So does Destin Hood, although he may listen to the wooing of professional baseball.

The position of concern on defense is linebacker. Alabama uses four linebackers in its base alignment and last year there were two senior starters in the group—Darren Mustin at weakside (and inside linebacker position) and Keith Saunders at jack (and outside position that is akin to a defensive end). Additionally, starting strongside (outside) linebacker Zeke Knight may not be able to participate because of health concerns and Prince Hall, a co-starter with Rolando McClain at middle linebacker, was suspended for the spring and his status has not been revealed.

There are some interesting linebacker prospects in the freshman class, including one or two who may have been recruited as prospects at a position other than linebacker.

The glamour linebackers in the freshman class are Jerrell Harris, who could join Jimmy Johns and company in the battle at strongside, and Don'ta Hightower, expected to compete at middle or weakside. Chris Jordan, a highly-regarded running back prospect, may also get a look at inside linebacker, where he was a very fine player. The need seems greater at linebacker than running back.

Courtney Upshaw seems suited for jack linebacker. Although Glenn Harbin was a prep defensive lineman, he, too, is expected to get a first look at jack linebacker.

Defensive linemen to a football team are like cannons to an army. There's no such thing as too many of them. It takes men to play in the college trenches. Does Bama have signees who might fit in at nose tackle or end?

Two potential nose tackle candidates have not been announced as academically cleared for college work. Kerry Murphy spent last year in prep school and Terrance Cody is finishing up in junior college.

Alabama's signing class includes several defensive end types—Marcel Dareus, Damion Square, Undra Billingsley, and Brandon Lewis. It remains to be seen if any of them can crack the playing rotation.

The secondary has some openings and Alabama signed some good ones. Mark Barron is a five star prospect who some believe is underrated! This all-around athlete is expected to get his first look at safety. One of the notable performers in post-season all-star games was cornerback Alonzo Lawrence, who had great success against Julio Jones. Jones' Foley teammate, Robert Lester, had an eye-opening senior season as a safety, while Robby Green is a highly regarded cornerback.

Alabama's offensive line seems to have been just short of having enough good players in recent years. A slight juggle in the spring—Mike Johnson moving from right tackle to replace Justin Britt at left guard—leaves inexperienced Drew Davis as the leader at right tackle. Tyler Love leads a small group of offensive linemen with great credentials and he may challenge at that spot. Most believe Barrett Jones will end up at center and John Michael Boswell at guard.

Michael Williams may get playing time as a freshman, but it doesn't seem likely it will be at his primary position, tight end. Alabama has quality, quantity and experience at the position. To great extent the picture is the same at tailback, although injuries to returning players make this position seem a little more open to freshman competition. Mark Ingram, Ivan Matchett and Jermaine Preyear are the running back candidates.

Expect Star Jackson to quarterback the scout team. Brad Smelley was a fine high school quarterback, but he's capable of playing any of a number of positions.

One factor in freshman participation can be a player getting a head start. That was seen on the 2007 team when Kareem Jackson entered at mid-term, took part in spring practice, and then earned a starting job at cornerback last fall. This year two signees reported early. Chris Jackson is a wide receiver and Corey Smith a placekicker. There were no indications in the A-Day Game that either is ticketed for major playing time this fall.

Another factor with this signing class is which players will be enrolled. Alabama signed 32 men in this class and only 25 can enter The University on football scholarship in August. Academic issues may allow for some attrition. It is also possible (though rare) for a scholarshiped athlete to pay his own way, freeing up a spot. This Bama class also has one player who could enter on a Bryant Scholarship. Wesley Neighbors is the son of Wes Neighbors, who played for former Tide Coach Paul Bryant and is thus eligible for this aid. A handful of current Bama football players participate through this scholarship program. ■



For over 36 years Bankston Motor Homes has delivered the highest quality motor homes and travel trailers to RVers all over the nation. We are proud to be the top dealer of Tiffin Motor Homes in the country.



Phaeton



Allegro Bay



Allegro Bus



Allegro



Zephyr

Bankston Motor Homes

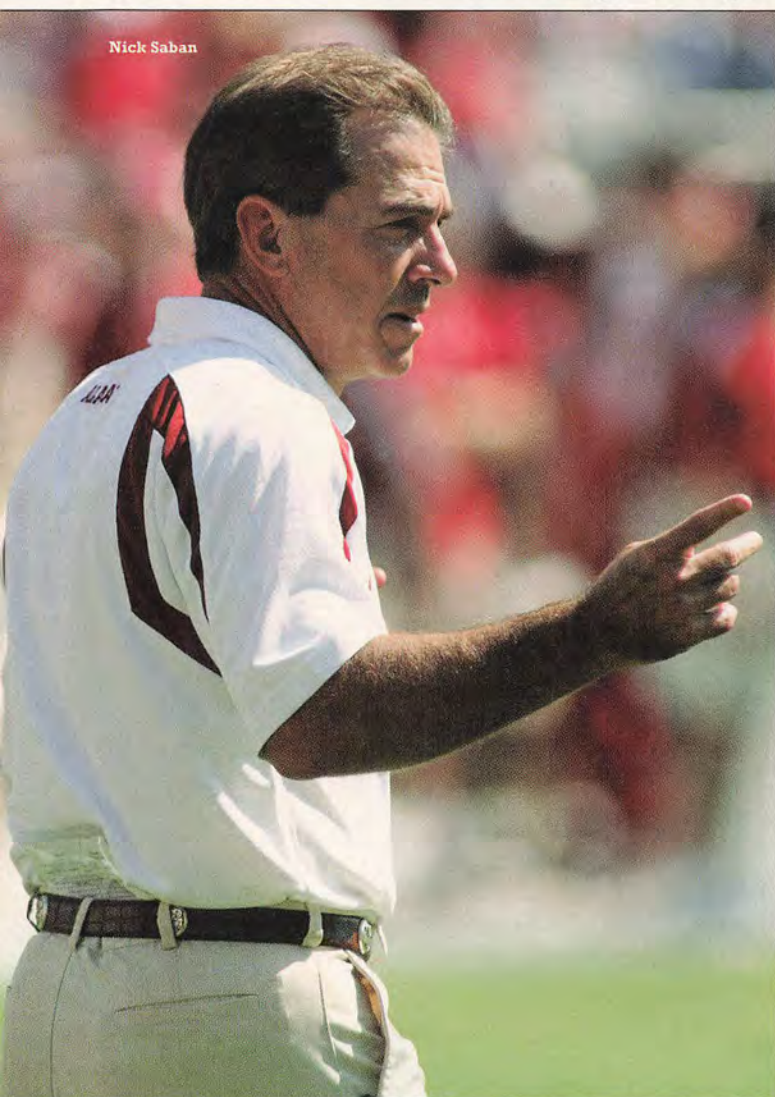
Since 1970 Bankston Motor Homes has delivered the highest quality motor homes and travel trailers to RVers all over the nation. We are proud to be the top dealer of Tiffin Motor Homes in the country. Call or visit us today!

www.BankstonMotorHomes.com | 1-888-477-0455

Huntsville, AL - Nashville, TN - Atlanta, GA
Montgomery, AL - Florence, AL

Nick Saban

Tide head coach
recruits on cutting edge



Nick Saban

University of Alabama

Jokingly—or not—it was referred to as the “Nick Saban Rule.” Legislation passed by the NCAA took Division I head coaches off the road during the critical spring evaluation period, which normally had been a time Terry Saban could count on her husband being gone most week nights. Now, he’s home more, but he figured out a quite legal way to circumvent the new rule and get “face to face” with prospects in an effort to get to know them better as people.

“We had video conferencing in our office from a medical standpoint for some of our guys to use,” Saban said, “to talk to sports psychiatrists and different things like that. That’s just a part of the peer intervention program, and we have several people involved in that.”

But according to most, no one had used video conferencing to chat with recruits before Saban did so with Athens High School defensive line prospect William Ming. “We had it,” said Saban. “Obviously, we’ve seen it used before and we’ve used it before.”

But not for this. Not for cyber chats with potential future Tideers. “We just thought it was a much better opportunity,” Saban said, “a little more personal opportunity than a phone call to visit with the high school coach, as well as the prospect.”

While he’s not actually on the road watching spring practices at dozens of high schools across the southeast and America as he did last year en route to the nation’s number one recruiting class, Saban is still putting in the man-hours during the spring evaluation period.

“Now, I try to spend as much time on recruiting being off the road as I did when I was on the road,” Saban said, “in terms of calling high school coaches, doing some of the video conferencing, and we’re still very involved in the evaluation.”

Such an innovative approach to what appeared at first to be an obstacle is an example of a pair of old sayings: “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade,” goes one. “Turn a stumbling block into a stepping stone,” says another.

The problem became the challenge, and Nick Saban relishes those. Saban, 56, has turned around division one football programs at both Michigan State and LSU before a brief two-year foray with the NFL's Miami Dolphins taught him (and prodded his wife to remind him) that college football, big-time like is played at Alabama, is where Nick Saban belongs.

Saban returned to college coaching officially in January of 2007, and began immediately to implement what he calls "The Process" in an effort to turn Alabama around, and return its football program to the type of success it enjoyed under the likes of Wallace Wade, Frank Thomas, Paul "Bear" Bryant and Gene Stallings—each who coached at least one national title Tide.

Given time to completely instill "The Process," chances are better than even that the Crimson Tide can win another, under Saban, before he hangs up his coaching whistle and heads for the friendly waters of Lake Burton in North Georgia.

However, for those Tide fans who ask Saban if he will fill the remaining spot left outside Bryant-Denny Stadium for a statue of a national championship Tide coach, he has some advice: "Not so fast."

Saban preaches "The Process" 24-7 to any and all who will listen, but those who truly pay attention also hear him say these things don't happen overnight. "I understand the expectations (of fans), but I also understand what it takes to accomplish those things," Saban said. "It takes a lot of hard work and commitment. It doesn't just happen by waving a wand."

It happens in the weight room, and during conditioning drills in Saban's now legendary "Fourth Quarter" conditioning program. It happens in the film room, the classroom, and on the practice field. It happens during free time, a rarity for the players, but something Saban had to lay the law down about after several players got into trouble in the off-campus area called "The Strip."

That area is now off-limits to Tide players.

Saban was chosen by Athletics Director Mal Moore to reinstall such discipline. It's all part of "The Process."

The second-year Bama coach led the Tide to a 7-6 record in his first season at The Capstone, including a home blowout of rival Tennessee and a bowl win in Shreveport over Colorado. He brought with him to Tuscaloosa quite a track record, and much of it came from his time previously spent in the Southeastern Conference at LSU. His overall college record is 98-48-1.

Saban coached the Bayou Bengals from 2000-2004, and, after implementing "The Process" took the Tigers to the 2003 National Championship. Along the way, his LSU teams captured SEC titles in 2001 and 2003. His LSU signees have been the talk of the last several NFL drafts.

While Alabama had no players taken in the 2008 draft, LSU had six. There won't likely be any more shutout years for the Tide, either. Saban signed the nation's number one recruiting class this past February, as he continues to stock the crimson cupboard with players similar to those who are now leaving LSU. There is much reason for hope among Tide fans, and the folk in crimson showed that hope by turning out in droves for Saban's "Crimson Caravan" appearances in April and May.

THE NICK SABAN FILE

Personal:

A native of Fairmont, West Virginia, born October 31, 1951. He and his wife, the former Terry Constable, have two children, Nicholas and Kristen.

Education:

Kent State University, 1973, business degree; Kent State University, 1975, masters degree in sports administration. He was a defensive back under Don James at Kent State, where he was on the only conference championship team in school history. His second year as head coach at Alabama will be his 36th year as a coach in the college and professional ranks. Bama is his fifth head coaching position.

Coaching Career:

As an assistant coach:

1973	Kent State graduate assistant
1974	Kent State graduate assistant
1975	Kent State secondary
1976	Kent State secondary
1977	Syracuse linebackers
1978	West Virginia secondary
1979	West Virginia secondary
1980	Ohio State secondary
1981	Ohio State secondary
1982	Navy secondary
1983-87	Michigan State defensive coordinator
1988-89	Houston Oilers secondary
1991-94	Cleveland Browns defensive coordinator

As a head coach:

Year	Team	Record
1990	Toledo	9-2
1995	Michigan State	6-5-1
1996	Michigan State	6-6
1997	Michigan State	7-5
1998	Michigan State	6-6
1999	Michigan State	9-2
2000	LSU	8-4
2001	LSU	10-3
2002	LSU	8-5
2003	LSU	13-1
2004	LSU	9-3
2005	Miami Dolphins	9-7
2006	Miami Dolphins	6-10
2007	Alabama	7-6 4-4 (T-3rd in West)

Total (14 Seasons) 113-65-1 (.634)

As A College Head Coach

School (Years)	Record
Toledo (1990)	9-2 (.818)
Michigan State (1995-99)	34-24-1 (.585)
LSU (2000-04)	48-16 (.750)
Alabama (2007-)	7-6 (.538)
Total (12 Seasons)	98-48-1 (.670)

Terry accompanied Saban on those trips, and she reminded her husband on at least one occasion to mind his manners. Saban got a little miffed at one question he got in Talladega, but before he could light up the questioner too badly, his wife stepped in and said, "You're talking to him like you talk to the media."

Saban enjoys his time with Tide fans, and routinely reminds press corps members that the fans ask better questions than do the writers and broadcasters. "Do you guys poll our fans?" he smiled to the media at the Talladega Caravan stop.

Mrs. Saban also enjoys her time with fans, and at many of the stops on the tour she seemed to sign as many autographs and pose for as many pictures as her husband did. Make no mistake about it: Terry Saban is one of the finest first ladies of Bama football ever, and will wear the mantle as well if not better than any since Ruth Ann Stallings held that title from 1990-1996.

As happy as Tide fans were when Saban took the Tide job last year, it's doubtful any were more thrilled that the Sabans were returning to the college game than Mrs. Saban. "Things fell into place so easily, I kept thinking and asking myself, 'Could this have been destiny?'" Terry said in an April, 2007 interview with Alabama's student newspaper, *The Crimson White*.

The Saban family believes strongly in charity work, as evidenced by Saban's charity Nick's Kids and Terry's recent work at A-day to raise funds for UA campus libraries. The mission statement of Nick's Kids reads:

"To work together in the spirit of faith and giving in our community.

"To promote and support children's, families', teacher's and student's causes.

"It's All About the Kids!"

Nick and Terry Saban have two children. Nicholas, 21, is a student at a small North Georgia college. He also plays in a band. Showing his sense of humor, Saban joked with Georgia Coach Mark Richt at the SEC meetings in Destin last year about a recent trip Saban made to Athens, Georgia, to see Nicholas' band play in a nightclub. Saban said he noticed a lot of Georgia's football players at the club. Saban was smiling. Richt, not so much.

Some people are still getting to know Saban. Perhaps Richt is one.

Daughter Kristen Saban is a 17-year old who just completed her junior year at Tuscaloosa Academy, where she served on the Prom Committee. Her name often comes up when Saban is explaining his disciplinary methods to fans or the media.

"We just don't always think that punishment is the end to getting the discipline that you want, because the only way we are going to change behavior is to affect things that are important to people," he says. "If I take Kristen's computer away, we get results. If I spank her, we get no results.

"I don't like spanking her, anyway, and don't really do that, but it doesn't do any good. If we take the computer and the cell phone away, we get rooms cleaned, dishes washed, homework finished. Whatever we want, it doesn't matter."

That's just one more example of "The Process." And as it has—and will—it produces results. Results relative to "The Process," that is. Even if that process means no spring off-campus recruiting.

Alabama Coach Nick Saban at practice



Top Hands

Alabama's assistant coaches can recruit

As Alabama Coach Nick Saban put together his first Crimson Tide coaching staff in 2007, then tweaked it this year after losing a few assistants, one thing that stands out is that Bama coaches can recruit.

That doesn't mean they can't coach, just that they stand out as men with excellent reputations for evaluating and successfully recruiting top players. The staff put together the top recruiting class in the country in 2008 and hopes to snag another top class in 2009.

As is the case with most college football coaching staffs, Alabama recruits as a team. Every prospect will be evaluated by three or four coaches, including Coach Saban, before an offer is made. The first coach to see a player is ordinarily the coach who has the recruiting area where the prospect is playing.

(Later the position coach and/or coordinator and Coach Saban will see and evaluate the prospect.)

Alabama coaches have designated recruiting areas throughout the country based in part on their backgrounds.

Here is a look at each Alabama coach and his recruiting area:

Kirby Smart is defensive coordinator and secondary coach, focusing primarily on safeties since Saban works with the cornerbacks.

Smart recruits the Montgomery-Dothan area (southeast Alabama), South Georgia, and the Tallahassee area in Florida.

Smart joined the Crimson Tide staff in January, 2007, after spending the 2006 season as safeties coach with Saban in Miami with the Dolphins. Smart spent six years on the collegiate level, at Georgia (1999 and 2005), LSU (2004), Florida State (2002-03) and Valdosta State (2000-01). Smart was a four-year letterman defensive back for the Georgia Bulldogs and selected first-team All-SEC as a senior.

Lance Thompson got a lot of justified praise from the nation's recruiting writers following the recent national signing day success of the Crimson Tide. That was in great part because of Alabama taking back the Mobile area, one of the state's richest in prep football talent.

Thompson coaches outside linebackers for the Tide.

In addition to Mobile, Thompson recruits in Atlanta and has the Destin, Panama City, and Pensacola areas of Florida.

Thompson is on his second tour as an Alabama assistant coach and is also rejoined with Saban for a second time. He previously served as Alabama's defensive line coach (1999-2000). Another member of Nick Saban's extended coaching family rejoined the new Alabama head coach's inaugural Tide coaching staff in January, 2007. Prior to his return in Tuscaloosa, Thompson spent the last three years as defensive coordinator at Central Florida. Before working at UCF he spent two seasons at LSU serving as the assistant head coach in charge of recruiting and the tight ends coach for the Tigers during their national

championship season in 2003. Thompson began his tenure at LSU in 2002 as the defensive line coach under Saban.

Thompson coached for four seasons with Coach George O'Leary's staff at Georgia Tech. Prior to his first two-year stint at Alabama, Thompson was a part of the Georgia Tech staff for 11 years. As a player, Thompson was a four-year letterman at The Citadel, where he earned his bachelor's degree in education and mathematics in 1987. He is a native of Riverdale, Georgia.

Kevin Steele is associate head coach, head defensive coach, and coaches the inside linebackers. When he's recruiting he is in charge of West Tennessee (Memphis), North Mississippi, Dallas, Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. (Obviously, he is not blanketing those states, but when Alabama has a viable prospect out of the traditional five-hour drive-from-Tuscaloosa zone, Steele would handle it in those states.)

Steele joined Saban's inaugural coaching staff at Alabama in January, 2007. Steele brought a wealth of coaching experience to Alabama after spending four seasons as a defensive assistant coach under Bobby Bowden at Florida State.

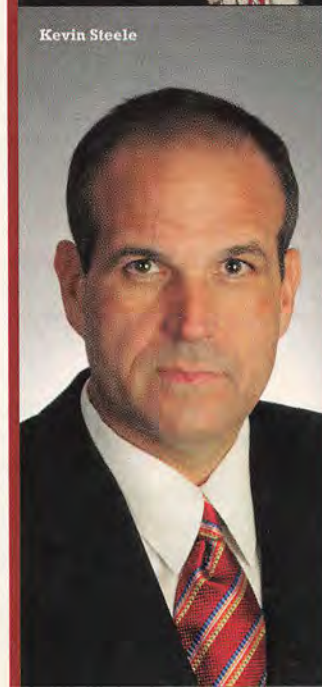
Named executive head coach for the Seminoles in 2005, Steele has also earned a reputation as an outstanding



Kirby Smart



Lance Thompson



Kevin Steele

recruiter. Steele was the head coach at Baylor University from 1999-2002 before moving to Florida State. He coached the linebackers for the NFL's Carolina Panthers from 1995-98 before taking the head coaching job at Baylor and had assistant coaching stints at Nebraska (1989-94), Tennessee (1987-88), Oklahoma State (1984-86) and New Mexico State (1983). As a player, Steele spent his freshman year at Furman before transferring to Tennessee, where he was a member of Johnny Majors' 1978 and 1979 squads. Steele is a native of Dillon, South Carolina, and a 1981 Tennessee graduate.

When it comes to recruiting, Burton Burns heads South. His recruiting area includes the Southern half of West Alabama (from Tuscaloosa to Mobile), South Mississippi, South Louisiana, and the double Southern whammy of South South Carolina.

Burns was an assistant coach at Clemson University for eight seasons prior to arriving in Tuscaloosa in January of 2007.

Burns had been part of six of the top 10 offenses in Clemson history as running backs coach for the Tigers. A native of New Orleans, Burns spent the last eight seasons with Coach Tommy Bowden at Clemson after a five-year stint at Tulane that included a 12-0 season in 1998. Over 13 seasons as a college assistant coach, Burns has regularly produced versatile running backs who have been effective in every phase of the game. His players have proven to be equally effective as pass catchers.

Burns spent nine seasons as assistant head coach and offensive coordinator at Saint Augustine High School in New Orleans. Burns' first experience as a coach also was at Saint Augustine. Burns also coached at New Orleans' Booker T. Washington High School in 1980 before a five-year stint as an assistant coach at Southern University in Baton Rouge from 1981-85.

As a player, Burns played fullback for four seasons (1971-75) at Nebraska under Tom Osborne. Burns participated in the Orange Bowl, Cotton Bowl and Sugar Bowl as a player and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Nebraska in 1976.

One much-publicized change in the Alabama coaching staff this year was the addition of Jim McElwain as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, replacing Major Applewhite. Most of the talk surrounding McElwain's presence on the staff concerns how the offensive might be improved. But McElwain does have a recruiting area.

He is in charge of North Central Florida (not including the Panhandle) and also has West Texas and the West Coast. Coach McElwain is in charge of Central/Northern Florida not including the Panhandle, west Texas and the entire West Coast.

McElwain is the newest member of the Alabama coaching staff, having been added January 30—a week before Signing Day.

McElwain served in the same role at Fresno State in 2007. He spent the 2006 season in the NFL as quarterbacks coach for the Oakland Raiders.

McElwain made an immediate impact in his first season at Fresno State as he helped lead the Bulldogs to a 9-4 record, a significant turnaround from the previous year in which Fresno State posted a 4-8 mark. McElwain served as the assistant head coach, receivers coach, and special teams coach at Michigan State from 2003-05.

Prior to his stint at Michigan State, McElwain spent three seasons (2000-02) at Louisville as the receivers coach and special teams coach.

From 1995-99, McElwain was the offensive coordinator, quarterbacks and receivers coach at Montana State and was at Eastern Washington from 1985-94 in a variety of capacities, starting as a graduate assistant and working his way up to quarterbacks and

receivers coach.

An all-state quarterback at Missoula (Montana) Sentinel High School, McElwain played quarterback at Eastern Washington from 1980-83 and earned his degree in Education from EWU in 1984.

Bo Davis is Alabama's defensive line coach. On the recruiting trail, he is charged with bringing them in from Central Mississippi, North Louisiana and East Texas.

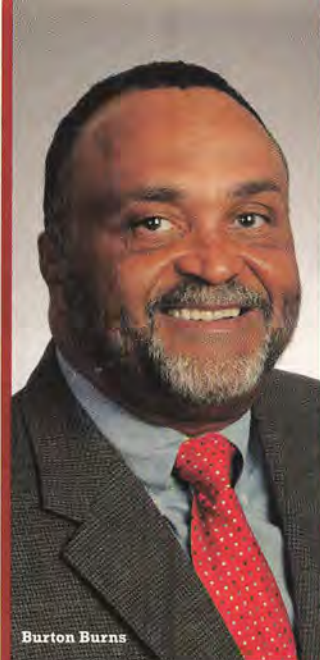
Davis joined the Tide staff in January, 2007, after serving the 2006 season as an assistant strength and conditioning coach and assistant defensive line coach with the Miami Dolphins under Saban. Prior to his stint with the Dolphins, Davis spent four years (2002-05) as an assistant strength and conditioning coach at LSU under Saban and current Tigers Coach Les Miles.

A former All-SEC defensive lineman for LSU in the early 1990s, Davis joined the LSU strength and conditioning staff as assistant coordinator in June of 2002. He joined the LSU staff after a stint at North Shore High School in Galena Park, Texas, where he served as an assistant football coach from 1997-2002. Davis played football at LSU from 1990 to 1992, earning second-team All-SEC honors as a nose guard in 1992.

A native of Magee, Mississippi, Davis graduated from LSU in 1993 and then served as a graduate assistant with the LSU strength and conditioning program, 1995-1997.

It is an NCAA rule that the recruiting coordinator be an on-the-field coach. Although Alabama recruiting involves a large number, both on and off the field, the title goes to Curt Cignetti, who is also Bama's wide receivers coach.

As his recruiting territory, he has Northwest Alabama, Central Tennessee, North Carolina, the northern half of South Carolina, and for those special situations Virginia, New



Burton Burns



Jim McElwain



Bo Davis

Jersey, New York, Maine, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

He is beginning his 25th season in the college coaching ranks. Cignetti came to Alabama from North Carolina State, where he had been tight ends coach, recruiting coordinator and quarterbacks coach in a seven-year stint under Coach Chuck Amato.

Prior to working with the Wolfpack, Cignetti served six seasons (1994-99) at Pittsburgh. Serving as recruiting coordinator during his six seasons at Pitt, he coached tight ends for the Panthers from 1994-96 and in 1999, and coached the quarterbacks in 1997-98. Cignetti was quarterbacks coach at Temple from 1989-92, coached quarterbacks at Rice from 1986-88, and coached quarterbacks and receivers at Davidson in 1985. Cignetti began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Pittsburgh in 1983-84.

Cignetti played quarterback at West Virginia from 1979-82. He participated in Peach and Gator bowls.

Cignetti was honored with the Lewis D. Meisel Award for academic excellence and the A.C. "Whitey" Gwynn Award for character while playing for the Mountaineers.

Cignetti's father, Frank, coached at West Virginia and Indiana University of Pennsylvania racking up 199 career victories before retiring following the 2005 season. Curt's brother, Frank Jr., is also a veteran of the college coaching ranks and was the quarterbacks coach for the NFL's San Francisco 49ers before moving to the University of California as the offensive coordinator and quarterback coach.

The veteran of the Alabama coaching staff is Joe Pendry, who is assistant head coach and offensive line coach. Head Coach Nick Saban has made frequent reference to the importance of Pendry in offensive game planning.

On the recruiting front, Pendry is area head for the Tuscaloosa area, East Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Pendry, a veteran of 19 years of NFL coaching experience, joined the staff at Alabama in January, 2007.

Pendry has worked with six different NFL clubs and has been to the playoffs 11 times in his career with his most recent stop coming with the Houston Texans, where he served as offensive line coach and offensive coordinator in 2004 and 2005. Prior to that, Pendry worked three years for Dom Capers at the Carolina Panthers from 1995-97.

A native of Matheny, West Virginia, Pendry was a three-sport star at Oceana High School, excelling in football, basketball and track. He was an All-State selection in football and basketball and was the West Virginia High School Lineman of the Year in 1964. Pendry played two seasons at West Virginia University (1965-66) before a career-ending injury allowed him to become a student coach (1967-68) before becoming a graduate assistant coach in 1969. He remained on the WVU staff as freshman coach (1970), wide receivers coach (1971-72), offensive line coach (1973-74) and offensive coordinator (1976-77).

Pendry also had coaching stints at Kansas State (1975), Pittsburgh (1978-79), and Michigan State (1980-81) before moving to the professional ranks. He was an assistant coach with the USFL's Philadelphia Stars (1982-83) before becoming head coach of the Pittsburgh Maulers in 1984. In 1985, he began his NFL coaching career, where he spent 19 years.

New to Alabama, but not to Nick Saban, is Bobby Williams, who is in charge of tight ends and special teams. His recruiting territory is Northeast Alabama, Northwest Georgia, South Florida, and, when possible, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.

Williams began coaching at Alabama this spring, the fourth time in his career he has worked for Saban. He has both college and NFL

experience, having worked under Saban at Michigan State, LSU and with the Miami Dolphins, where he was running backs coach in 2005-06.

He served as the associate head coach/wide receivers coach at LSU in 2004 where he coached a pair of future NFL first round picks in Craig Davis and Dwayne Bowe.

Prior to his year in Baton Rouge, Williams spent one season (2003) as the wide receivers coach with the Detroit Lions.

Williams followed coach Saban as head coach at Michigan State, and served in that post from 2000-02. He led the Spartans to a victory over Florida in the 2000 Citrus Bowl after the 1999 season in his first game as the school's head coach. He also guided Michigan State to a 7-5 mark in 2001, his second full season as the team's head coach, one which culminated with a victory over Fresno State in the Silicon Valley Football Classic, as he became the first coach in Michigan State history to lead his team to victories in his first two bowl appearances.

He previously was an assistant on the Spartans staff from 1990-99, during which time he tutored the running backs, the final five years under Saban.

Williams got his start in the coaching profession as running backs/defensive backs coach at Ball State, 1983-84. He had a five-year stop (1985-89) as offensive backfield coach at Eastern Michigan before heading off to East Lansing.

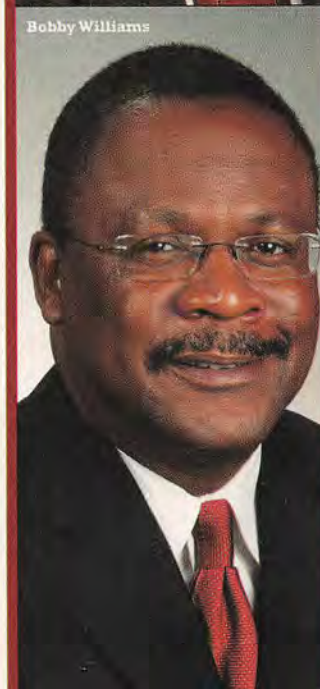
The St. Louis native is a 1982 graduate of Purdue and was a four-year letterman for the Boilermakers. He started his career at running back before moving to the secondary and starting in his final three seasons. A tri-captain as a senior in 1981, Williams was a part of three Purdue bowl teams as a player. He then served one year (1982) as a graduate assistant with the Boilermakers. ■



Curt Cignetti



Joe Pendry



Bobby Williams

Bryant-Denny Stadium

Tide's home made impact with prospects

Barrett Jones, Wesley Neighbors. Jermaine Preyear. Melvin Ray. Corey Smith. All members of Alabama's nationally number one-rated 2008 football recruiting class. And why did they choose Alabama?

Bryant-Denny Stadium.

No, that wasn't the only reason they picked the Tide, but all five players did specifically single out Alabama's facilities as a key factor in their decision.

"The game day atmosphere is so attractive to recruits," Jones, the top-rated prep football player in Tennessee in '07, told 'BAMA Magazine's Andrew Bone. "It's an electric atmosphere all the time. Most SEC schools have big stadiums, but Alabama's is always loud. It's a special feeling and a special place. The students start yelling at all the recruits. It's special."

High school recruits aren't alone. From T-shirts to postcards to screen-savers to miniature replicas to posters to paintings, it's clear Bryant-Denny Stadium is a source of pride to everyone associated with Alabama football. And well it should be.

But Bryant-Denny Stadium didn't become the crown jewel it is today overnight.

A week after it opened on September 28, 1929, Denny Stadium, which was named after longtime University of Alabama President George Denny, was officially christened as The University of Alabama's modern football facility. It seated 12,000. Within eight years of its christening, Denny Stadium had expanded to 18,000, and in the years to follow, the stadium's seating capacity steadily rose.

Capacity reached 43,000 by 1961 and 60,000 by 1966. There was no expansion in 1976 but there was a name change as Denny Stadium became Bryant-Denny Stadium thanks to an act by the Alabama Legislature to honor the school's legendary head coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant. The next change didn't occur until 1988 when an upper deck on the west side was added to bring capacity to 70,123. An east upper deck was completed in 1998, increasing capacity to 83,818.

The stadium's most recent expansion, targeting the north end zone, was completed in 2006 and upped capacity to 92,128, making it the eighth largest on-campus stadium in America. But, as A-Day 2007 and the ever-increasing demand for football tickets in the fall have proven, the facility is still too small. That's led to plans for another expansion, a re-make of the South end zone that will be very much like the North. That project is on hold, however, owing to a recent downturn in the economy. Don't expect the delay to be a long one.

If there's one thing that distinguishes Bryant-Denny Stadium even more so than its size and hyphenated name it is its unmatched tradition. The fact is, the stadium was and continues to be the home



Benjamin Cohen

of one of the most storied college football programs in America. It's where people have come for decades not to see the Crimson Tide simply play football but see it win. And win it has, especially under Bryant when Alabama compiled a 72-2 record at the venue.

Legends have been born, championships secured and dynasties witnessed within the confines of this 79-year-old facility. It's the site where perhaps

the greatest and certainly the most famous college football coach of all time walked the sideline. It's the only place you can go in America and hear thousands of voices unite as one to yell "Roll Tide!"

Simply put, Alabama football wouldn't be Alabama football without Bryant-Denny Stadium.

"You have to realize that stadiums all across the country are special to different people," former Alabama head coach Gene Stallings said. "Those from Tennessee feel their stadium is special. Personally, I feel it's the tradition that helps set Bryant-Denny Stadium apart. It's been the site of years and years and years of outstanding football when you think about Coach Wallace Wade to Coach Bryant. There have been hundreds of games played there and very few have not been sold out.

"The fact that there really aren't any professional teams in Alabama makes the games at Bryant-Denny Stadium that much more important. It's made it kind of a rallying point for the people of Alabama. Bryant-Denny Stadium is just a place of great tradition."

Coach Stallings was being modest in his "Wallace Wade to Coach Bryant" time frame. Stallings added greatly to the lore of Bryant-Denny Stadium in his seven seasons as the Crimson Tide's head coach. Nearly a constant stream of visitors passes by the larger-than-life statues of Wade, Bryant, Stallings and Frank Thomas—Alabama's national championship football coaches—in the North Plaza.

And, as history continues to show, it's a place that keeps getting better—and bigger—with age.

Bryant-Denny Stadium is the jewel among Alabama's athletics facilities. Football benefits from the extraordinary (and recently dedicated) Mal Moore Athletics Administration building, which houses football coaches' offices, the weight room, training room, practice locker room, equipment room, and meeting and recruiting facilities.

Bryant Hall, once the dormitory for Alabama football and men's basketball players, is now an expanded and remodeled building that houses an unmatched academic center for athletes in all sports.

Football players have four outdoor and one indoor practice field for preparation.

In short, Alabama football facilities are on par with Alabama football tradition and Alabama football expectations. ■



2008 SEC FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

(Game Times Tentative and Subject to Change - As of March 27, 2008)

Date Team	Aug. 30	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
ALABAMA	CLEMSON Atlanta	TULANE Tuscaloosa	WESTERN KENTUCKY Tuscaloosa	ARKANSAS Fayetteville	GEORGIA Athens	KENTUCKY Tuscaloosa		OLE MISS Tuscaloosa	TENNESSEE Knoxville	ARKANSAS STATE Tuscaloosa	LSU Baton Rouge	MISSISSIPPI STATE Tuscaloosa		AUBURN Tuscaloosa
ARKANSAS	WESTERN ILLINOIS Fayetteville	LOUISIANA MONROE Little Rock	TEXAS Austin	ALABAMA Fayetteville		FLORIDA Fayetteville	AUBURN Auburn	KENTUCKY Lexington	OLE MISS Fayetteville	TULSA Fayetteville	SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia		MISSISSIPPI STATE Starkville	LSU Little Rock (Nov. 28)
AUBURN	LOUISIANA MONROE Auburn	SOUTHERN MISS Auburn	MISSISSIPPI STATE Starkville	LSU Auburn	TENNESSEE Auburn	VANDERBILT Nashville	ARKANSAS Auburn		WEST VIRGINIA Morgantown (Oct. 23)	OLE MISS Oxford	TENNESSEE MARTIN Auburn	GEORGIA Auburn		ALABAMA Tuscaloosa
FLORIDA	HAWAII Gainesville	MIAMI (FLA.) Gainesville		TENNESSEE Knoxville	OLE MISS Gainesville	ARKANSAS Fayetteville	LSU Gainesville		KENTUCKY Gainesville	GEORGIA Jacksonville	VANDERBILT Nashville	SOUTH CAROLINA Gainesville	THE CITADEL Gainesville	FLORIDA STATE Tallahassee
GEORGIA	GEORGIA SOUTHERN Athens	CENTRAL MICHIGAN Athens	SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia	ARIZONA STATE Tempe	ALABAMA Athens		TENNESSEE Athens	VANDERBILT Athens	LSU Baton Rouge	FLORIDA Jacksonville	KENTUCKY Lexington	AUBURN Auburn		GEORGIA TECH Athens
KENTUCKY	LOUISVILLE Louisville (Aug. 31)	NORFOLK STATE Lexington	MIDDLE TENNESSEE Lexington		WESTERN KENTUCKY Lexington	ALABAMA Tuscaloosa	SOUTH CAROLINA Lexington	ARKANSAS Lexington	FLORIDA Gainesville	MISSISSIPPI STATE Starkville	GEORGIA Lexington	VANDERBILT Lexington		TENNESSEE Knoxville
LSU	APPALACHIAN STATE Baton Rouge	TROY Baton Rouge	NORTH TEXAS Baton Rouge	AUBURN Auburn	MISSISSIPPI STATE Baton Rouge		FLORIDA Gainesville	SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia	GEORGIA Baton Rouge	TULANE Baton Rouge	ALABAMA Baton Rouge		OLE MISS Baton Rouge	ARKANSAS Little Rock (Nov. 28)
OLE MISS	MEMPHIS Oxford	WAKE FOREST Winston-Salem	SAMFORD Oxford	VANDERBILT Oxford	FLORIDA Gainesville	SOUTH CAROLINA Oxford		ALABAMA Tuscaloosa	ARKANSAS Fayetteville	AUBURN Oxford		LOUISIANA MONROE Oxford	LSU Baton Rouge	MISS. STATE Oxford (Nov. 28)
MISS. STATE	LOUISIANA TECH Ruston	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA Starkville	AUBURN Starkville	GEORGIA TECH Atlanta	LSU Baton Rouge		VANDERBILT Starkville	TENNESSEE Knoxville	MIDDLE TENNESSEE Starkville	KENTUCKY Starkville		ALABAMA Tuscaloosa	ARKANSAS Starkville	OLE MISS Oxford (Nov. 28)
SOUTH CAROLINA	N.C. STATE Columbia (Aug. 28)	VANDERBILT Nashville (Sept. 4)	GEORGIA Columbia	WOFFORD Columbia	UAB Columbia	OLE MISS Oxford	KENTUCKY Lexington	LSU Columbia		TENNESSEE Columbia	ARKANSAS Columbia	FLORIDA Gainesville		CLEMSON Clemson
TENNESSEE	UCLA Los Angeles (Sept. 1)		UAB Knoxville	FLORIDA Knoxville	AUBURN Auburn	NORTHERN ILLINOIS Knoxville	GEORGIA Athens	MISSISSIPPI STATE Knoxville	ALABAMA Knoxville	SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia	WYOMING Knoxville		VANDERBILT Nashville	KENTUCKY Knoxville
VANDERBILT	MIAMI (OHIO) Oxford (Aug. 28)	SO. CAROLINA Nashville (Sept. 4)	RICE Nashville	OLE MISS Oxford		AUBURN Nashville	MISSISSIPPI STATE Starkville	GEORGIA Athens	DUKE Nashville		FLORIDA Nashville	KENTUCKY Lexington	TENNESSEE Nashville	WAKE FOREST Winston-Salem

2008 SEC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME • DECEMBER 6 • ATLANTA, GA.



Going For The Three-Peat!

Scout experts look at SEC football

By becoming the first team with two losses to win the national championship, LSU managed to further strengthen the notion that when it comes to college football, the Southeastern Conference reigns as the nation's top league. With back-to-back national titles and six overall in the past 16 years, it's now become clear that if you can win the SEC title, there's a good chance you'll get to play for the national title as well.

While LSU will be hard pressed to repeat as the national champ in 2008, there are several other league teams waiting in the wings to chase after a rare three-peat for the conference. Not since 1980, when Georgia followed Alabama's 1978 and '79 titles with its first and only national championship, has a conference won three straight national titles. And based on the assessments of Scout's SEC publishers, Georgia is the most likely candidate to give the SEC bragging rights for the third straight year.

Scout.com went to its experts at each of the 12 SEC schools to gather post-spring practice outlooks for all the league squads, while also polling our writers to determine their picks to win the division and overall league titles.

The teams are previewed in order of their predicted division finish with first-place votes in parentheses.

SEC West

LSU (8)

By Sonny Shipp
Tiger Sports Digest.com

LSU became the first school to win more than one BCS National Championship with its victory over Ohio State back in January and since that joyous occasion down in the Big Easy there has been plenty of news surrounding Les Miles' program.

Some of the happenings were just what Miles needed to continue his successful run at LSU, where he has compiled a 34-6 record in three years on the job.

The Tigers reeled in the seventh-ranked recruiting class in the country, which is vital to maintaining an elite program.

However, Miles must now find a new triggerman to lead his offense after the dismissal of the only returning quarterback who

had taken a meaningful snap at the college level in Ryan Perrilloux.

With Perrilloux out of the picture, the focus now turns to three inexperienced signal callers who will lead the Tigers on the field in 2008--- Andrew Hatch, Jarrett Lee and incoming freshman Jordan Jefferson.

Since Perrilloux missed all of spring practice, Hatch and Lee split time with the first team offense and after the spring game there was no indication given as to which guy was ahead of the other.

It should be a good battle when fall camp rolls around since each quarterback brings something different to the table.

The supporting cast the quarterbacks will have to work with should make the growing pains more bearable. The Tigers have what some consider the top offensive line in the SEC and one of, if not, the best collection of running backs in the conference with guys like Keiland Williams, Charles Scott and Richard Murphy toting the ball.

Demetrius Byrd, Brandon LaFell and Terrance Toliver also return from last season and will give whoever is delivering the ball three very talented receivers who have a good combination of size, speed and experience.

The defense has always been LSU's most reliable unit under Miles and things are not expected to change now that Bo Pelini has moved on to Nebraska.

Doug Mallory and Bradley Dale Peveto will serve as co-defensive coordinators and from all accounts there will not be much of a change in scheme.

Mallory and Peveto will have one of the country's top defensive lines with Tyson Jackson and Kirsten Pittman coming off the edge and a star-studded cast of tackles led by Ricky Jean-Francois.

There is some concern with depth at the linebacker position as Darry Beckwith is the only returning starter and the ranks were thin during spring practice while Jacob Cutrera and Perry Riley were out with injuries.

The secondary was also hit hard as three starters moved on to the NFL.

Curtis Taylor returns at free safety and will be joined by the hard-hitting Harry Coleman at strong safety. But who will start at corner?

That's a question the LSU coaches will likely not have

answered until two of the top high school cornerbacks in the country, Patrick Johnson and Brandon Taylor, make it to campus. Both are expected to contend for the starting spots that Jai Eugene and Chris Hawkins nailed down during the spring.

Every program has question marks heading into a season and LSU certainly falls into that category. The good thing for the Tigers is that Miles has recruited well since he has been in Baton Rouge. But will the young pups be ready for the big stage?

AUBURN (2)

By Stephen Atkinson
Inside the Auburn Tigers/AUTigers.com

Tommy Tuberville is back for his 10th season at Auburn, but the face of Auburn football has undergone a major overhaul since the Tigers' sixth consecutive Iron Bowl victory last November.

Tony Franklin was hired as offensive coordinator in early December and he installed his spread offense prior to the win over Clemson in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. Paul Rhoads made the move at defensive coordinator from the University of Pittsburgh to run a 4-3 scheme and a less aggressive approach than the Tigers have run in recent years.

The Tigers return just about every key offensive contributor from a season ago, but the most noticeable loss is three-year starting quarterback Brandon Cox. Kodi Burns, a running threat who has improved his passing skills, and transfer Chris Todd were neck and neck coming out of spring and a two-quarterback system is possible in Franklin's fast-paced offense.

Ben Tate and Brad Lester were the top two rushers last season and will be the featured runners in the new, shotgun-heavy system, while Mario Fannin is expected to get touches in several ways. The top two receivers from last season, Rod Smith and Montez Billings, return to the lineup, and if spring was any indication, then senior speedster James Swinton may be poised for a breakout season.

Tommy Trott also had an outstanding spring catching passes from his slot position and Robert Dunn's quickness also makes him a threat in the slot. Led by seniors Jason Bosley and Tyronne Green, the starting offensive line from a season ago remains intact.

Rhoads inherits a defense that may be as talented as any in the SEC. End Antonio Coleman and Sen'Derrick Marks, who made the move back inside to tackle, lead the charge on the defensive front. The Tigers aren't overly experienced on the front four, but several young players appear ready to fill in.

Middle linebacker Tray Blackmon, who had his best spring, headlines a deep and talented linebacker corps. The secondary must replace three contributors, but Rhoads' 4-3 should favor cornerbacks Jerraud Powers, Walter McFadden and Aairon Savage with more zone coverage than the Tigers are accustomed to showing. Zac Etheridge and Mike McNeil are two of the better



Christian Petersen/Getty

young safeties in the league. On special teams, Wes Byrum and Ryan Shoemaker return after solid freshman seasons at kicker and punter.

The schedule features three of the five BCS game winners from a season ago—LSU and Georgia, both at home, plus a midseason road trip to West Virginia. The Tigers have a favorable conference schedule with Tennessee and Arkansas also visiting Jordan-Hare Stadium while the road SEC games are Mississippi State, Vanderbilt, Ole Miss and Alabama.

ALABAMA (1)

By Kirk McNair
'BAMA Magazine

It is no secret that Alabama football has been in a funk for the past dozen or so years, only an occasional decent season, big wins rare, since the national championship season of 1992. That doesn't mean Crimson Tide football doesn't garner attention. Nick Saban does, and so does having the nation's top recruiting class, as Bama did in February.

That recruiting class may play a part in Alabama having an improved football team in Saban's second year. A much tougher schedule, however, may mean that improvement is not reflected in the record.

Alabama personnel losses from 2007 seem somewhat insignificant since no Tide players were selected in the NFL draft. Nevertheless, Bama must replace three wide receivers, a three-year starting offensive lineman, its best pass rusher, at least two linebackers, and an All-SEC cornerback. The schedule is not favorable with defending national champion LSU, pre-season favorite Georgia, ACC powerhouse Clemson plus Tennessee and Arkansas as road games.

The Tide will have its third offensive coordinator in as many years with Jim McElwain coming in from Fresno State. He is working with John Parker Wilson at quarterback. Wilson, a three-year starter, has broken most Bama passing records and will have them all with a decent senior season. Bama is expected to be sans fullback in 2008, opting for either an extra wide receiver or tight end.

The offense should benefit from an excellent offensive line, headed by junior Andre Smith, winner of the Jacobs Award as the SEC's best blocker in his sophomore season. Center Antoine Caldwell is an all-star candidate.

Bama has skill and depth at tight end, headed by Travis McCall and Nick Walker, and a receiving corps led by Nikita Stover seems to lack only experience. Redshirt freshman Darius Hanks has superstar ability. Julio Jones, the nation's top prep receiver last year, could make an impact.

Running back was beset by injury last year, but five tailbacks, including Terry Grant and Glen Coffee, return.

Alabama expects to have a strong defensive line with the likes of Brandon Deaderick, Bobby Greenwood, Alfred McCullough and Luther Davis at end and Lorenzo Washington and Josh Chapman at nose tackle in the Tide's 3-4 defense. The jack linebacker, almost a defensive lineman, is expected to be former end Brandon Fanney.

Rolando McClain, a freshman All-America last year, returns at middle linebacker. The other inside spot will go either to Prince Hall, a two-year starter who was suspended in the spring, or a newcomer. Strongside linebacker will be either Zeke Knight, who has had two serious illnesses in the past three years, or perhaps Jimmy Johns, converted from tailback.

Rashad Johnson is an outstanding safety and Kareem Jackson had an excellent freshman year at cornerback. A big surprise of the spring was the play of Javier Arenas, the outstanding kick return specialist, at cornerback. The secondary is considered a big question mark.

With Arenas returning kicks and Leigh Tiffin as the

placekicker, Alabama has strength in special teams. Punter P.J. Fitzgerald, however, has been inconsistent.



Alabama quarterback
John Parker Wilson

Doug Beno/Getty

MISSISSIPPI STATE

By David Murray
Dawgs Bite

It took four seasons, with more frustrations than celebrations. But now with a winning year on the record coach Sylvester Croom isn't relaxing. Not when his fifth Bulldog ballclub has the personnel and potential to build on 2007's success.

"We've still got a lot of getting-better to do," Croom says. "But if we keep working like we are we've got a chance to be pretty good."

For this low-key coach to say Mississippi State can

be "pretty good" speaks volumes. The Bulldogs often were pretty good in an 8-5 (4-4 SEC) season with a Liberty Bowl championship. What Croom wants now is just plain good play every weekend. And in another noteworthy change, 2008 talk starts...on offense. Yes, the 113th-ranked unit of '07 projects real progress.

Forced into starting duty at mid-year, freshman Wesley Carroll won games by not losing them. Now "We're looking for Wes to step up his role as a playmaker, particularly in the passing game," Croom said.

Carroll will look for Co-Eric Riley, Jamayel Smith and Aubrey Bell all to be able to play short or go deep.

"We're capable of throwing the ball up the field more," Croom said. "We know we can run the football."

Halfback Anthony Dixon certainly does pound the ground. Activating redshirts Robert Elliot and Wade Bonner should balance power with explosive speed, and run-throw quarterbacks Chris Relf and Tyson Lee offer new options to this package. And despite losses to graduation and dismissal, Croom believes revamped blocking will be as capable and maybe more consistent.

The defense has a baseball theme: strong up the middle. Tackles Jessie Bowman, Kyle Love, and LaMarcus Williams share the two interior line spots, backed by middle LB Jamar Chaney. But the pass-rush talents of Titus Brown are gone and these ends are better run-stoppers. So outside 'backers Dominic Douglas and K.J. Wright will put their speed to use in other ways.

They can gamble with safeties Derek Pegues, Keith Fitzhugh, and De'Mon Glanton back in support. Marcus Washington was a spring standout at right cornerback, and Jasper O'Quinn is

reliable on the left side while redshirt Damein Anderson works into the mix. Two years of quality recruiting means defensive depth, as well as faster bodies on kick coverage.

"Each year we've improved our speed," Croom said. "Our veteran players are practicing well. We're ahead of the game on defense right now."

Kicking might have been the most-improved aspect of 2007, and both specialists—placekicker Adam Carlson and punter Blake McAdams—are back for senior seasons.

Improving on a breakthrough season isn't automatic. But as the offense starts hitting a few home runs and the defense finds new pass-rushers, these Bulldogs can be pretty good. Or just plain good.

MISSISSIPPI

By Chuck Rounsaville
Ole Miss Spirit

As is the case with any team, there are a multitude of angles that could be discussed when it comes to Ole Miss football, but the Rebels have three main "talking points" as August practice rapidly approaches.

A new coach: Houston Nutt, who successfully guided the Arkansas Razorbacks for a decade, takes over the helm after Ed Orgeron's dismissal.

A new quarterback: Jevan Snead, who sat out last season after transferring in from Texas, will lead the Rebel offense.

A new attitude: Nutt inherited a downtrodden team that has four consecutive losing seasons under its belt, meaning a mental rebirth is as important as any ingredient to Ole Miss' chances.

Nutt and his staff have brought an infectious enthusiasm to the table. The first thing he did was hire defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix, an SEC veteran at South Carolina, and offensive coordinator Kent Austin, who won a Grey Cup in his first year as a head coach in the Canadian Football League. With veteran offensive line coach/run game coordinator Mike Markuson still by his side, Nutt's staff hit the ground running.

In spring training, a visible transformation started taking place. A more confident, alert and enthusiastic team emerged. Nutt has some talent gaps to deal with at various positions, but overall everyone involved tabbed the spring session a success.

The Rebels have four returning starters on the offensive line, a bevy of capable and dynamic wideouts, a four-year starter at fullback, and Snead highlighting the offense. Snead showed in spring why he was one of the most widely-touted and recruited quarterbacks in the land three years ago. Physically, he's got "it" and he's an honor roll student to boot.

The tailback and tight end slots are unproven, but junior tailback Cordera Eason and tight ends David Traxler and Gerald Harris had productive springs. The Rebels also signed one of the top running backs in the country in Enrique Davis from Hargrave Military Academy, who should provide immediate help.

On defense, the strength should be up front where senior tackle Peria Jerry promises to be one of the best in the business and end Greg Hardy is a preseason All-SEC choice. The linebackers need help, but the top three – returning starter Ashlee Palmer, sophomore Allen Walker and sophomore Jonathan Cornell – came together to form a solid unit in spring. The secondary has returning experience at the safety slots, but the coaches scrambled in spring to try to find reliable corners. Veteran starting wide receiver Marshay Green was sent to

defense to help shore up the corner dilemma.

Rebel fans were quick to recognize positive change was in the wind and in the works. The excitement level and enthusiasm toward Ole Miss football is already reaching peak levels.

How quickly Nutt can turn the team around remains to be seen, but there is encouragement Ole Miss football has found its way out of the wilderness and back into the mainstream already.

ARKANSAS

By Clay Henry
Hawgs Illustrated

Casey Dick must have known he was going to throw a bunch of passes in the Red-White scrimmage. He completed 25-of-33 passes for 244 yards and two touchdowns in the first half when his Red team kept the ball for an incredible 52 snaps. The Allen, Texas product finished the night completing 33-of-49 passes for 404 yards.

Had he ever thrown that much in a half?

"Never," he said. "But I feel fine. We threw a lot this spring. I was ready to start out this spring and my shoulder feels fine. We learned to ice it. No problems with any of the quarterbacks."

The performance left new Arkansas coach Bobby Petrino with plenty to smile about afterwards. Petrino wasn't pleased with failures in the red zone in several instances by the first team and said the team had a long way to go. But he liked a lot of what he saw, including the atmosphere at Razorfest (an estimated 52,000 attended the all-day event) before the game and the reception fans gave the team at the outset and throughout.

"It was a lot of fun," he said. "There was excitement all day. It was a great day for Arkansas. The atmosphere was great. I want to thank the fans. I know the players were excited and I appreciate the reception."

Petrino was pleased with the way his team took to a new staff, which not only put in new offensive and defensive schemes, but emphasized more hitting and a tough-minded approach.

"Our players have character," he said.

"They showed they will play hard and play fast."

Obviously, the offensive system will rely more heavily on the pass than in recent years when first-round draft choices Darren McFadden and Felix Jones were handed the ball on most plays. But the defense will be dramatically different, too. Gone is the man-to-man coverage and press-style play at cornerback. Petrino and Willy Robinson, his new defensive coordinator, emphasize zone coverage.

The Hogs return the fewest regulars in the SEC. Counting kickers Alex

Tejada and Jeremy Davis, the Hogs return just 12 starters. And, the schedule is ambitious. Along with the SEC West, they play Florida, South Carolina and Kentucky from the East. There is also a non-conference trip to Texas.

The strengths of the team will be in the offensive and defensive front. Rimington Award winner Jonathan Luigs anchors the offensive line and will start for the fourth year. Petrino loves a four-man defensive end rotation led by Antwain Robinson and Adrian Davis. The Hogs are four deep at tight end led by D. J. Williams and

Andrew Davie, who will be featured in the passing game.

As for weaknesses, the wide receivers made improvement in the spring in Petrino's system but will need help from a freshman class that is heavy with speed and top pass catchers. Joseph Adams, Jarius Wright and Cruz Williams will get a quick look in August and may figure in the plans already.

"It was a good spring," Petrino said. "We've come a long way. I feel good about both fronts. We need some help at the skill positions, but our players worked hard this spring. It's been a very positive spring. Again, we have a long way to go, but I'm impressed with the players. They have good character and they understand how to work. They've learned how to work and about tempo. They've played physical and they have learned how to hit every day."

SEC East

GEORGIA (7, SEC CHAMPION)

By Dean Legge
Dawgpost Magazine

The expectations for Georgia football have not been higher since their heyday in the early 1980s – and with good reason. The team which finished last season ranked behind only national champion LSU returns starters in all key spots including running back and quarterback. Knowshon Moreno, Georgia's dynamic running back, is a Heisman Trophy candidate, while signal caller Matthew Stafford is considered one of the top quarterbacks in the country.

That two-headed monster will get most of the publicity for the Dawgs, but it won't be the only talented part of Georgia's 2008 squad. Georgia returns five of its top seven offensive linemen, including three returning starters, this fall. The group is young, but good, and developed at the

NEED ONE TICKET

ALABAMA FOOTBALL TICKETS

ALABAMA BASKETBALL

THE MASTERS

SUPER BOWL

ALL ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS!

FULLY LICENSED TICKET BROKERAGE

RAY WELLS

COREY GIBBS

JOHN ED BELVIN

1100 14TH AVE., SUITE 20

(205) 758-1199

TUSCALOOSA, AL 35401

(877) 758-1199

WWW.NEEDONETICKET.COM

end of the 2007 season. The Bulldogs will need their wide receivers to elevate their game, with the notable exception of senior Mohammed Massaquoi, who will conclude his career in Athens as the top pass-catching threat for the Dawgs. Even with Massaquoi, that group has started slow in recent seasons. Fullbacks and tight ends are another strength for the Bulldogs. Starters Brannan Southerland and Tripp Chandler are two of the best in the SEC at their respective positions.

On the defensive side of the ball the Bulldogs return three of four starters on a stout defensive line. The headliner is tackle Geno Atkins, but Jeff Owens is also a budding star. Georgia's linebackers may be as steady as any in the Mark Richt era of football in Athens. Senior Dannell Ellerbe and sophomore Rennie Curran were a difficult pair to stop from the midpoint of the season on in 2007. The Georgia secondary is loaded with talent. Asher Allen is the most productive defensive back, but safety Reshad Jones is a name to watch in 2008.

Georgia's special teams should be better than average in 2008, but incoming true freshman Blair Walsh will have to do his part to make certain this unit doesn't slip.

The schedule is daunting – after two warm-ups at home, the Bulldogs travel to South Carolina and Arizona State. Alabama awaits the Bulldogs after their trip to the desert. A week off before the Tennessee game, the team which has tripped Georgia up more than any other of late, may help against the Vols. Vanderbilt then visits Athens for Homecoming before the two most pivotal games of the season – at LSU and Florida in Jacksonville. A spilt of those two contests may be required if the Bulldogs want to win the SEC. Georgia has won its last two games against LSU and has split its last four with the Gators. A trip to Kentucky follows those games, and an always unusual trip to Auburn comes after that. Georgia gets a week's worth of rest after the Tigers before rival Georgia Tech comes to town in the final week of the season.

Georgia will be ranked as high as ever coming into 2008. If the Dawgs can hold it together on the road and avoid an upset at home they will be a strong candidate for the BCS national title game.

FLORIDA (4)

By David Stirt

Fightin' Gators magazine

If anybody wants to challenge the axiom that it's defense that wins championships, Florida's 2006 and 2007 seasons serve as living proof of its veracity.

On their way to winning the 2006 national title, the Gators held opponents to 13.5 points per game and showed total defensive dominance in their 41-14 thrashing of Ohio State in the national championship game.

A year later, an offense led by Heisman Trophy-winner Tim Tebow scored more points than any team in school history (552) and averaged 42.4 points per game, becoming only the fifth team in school history to score more than 40 points per contest, yet had to settle for a 9-4 record when the defense gave up 25.5 points per game, the highest mark since the 1971 team yielded 27.1 per game. Included in the disastrous defensive numbers were a school-record 10 consecutive games of giving up 20 or more points.

So while the return of Tebow and all-purpose superstar Percy Harvin figures to push the offense to as good, or an even better, scoring performance in 2008, last year proved that unless the defense makes dramatic improvement, the Gators face the prospect of being in a situation or two where the offense may



Doug Banc/Getty

need to score late to pull out a victory.

Last year, the losses to Auburn (20-17) and LSU (28-24) were both decided in the final few moments of the contest, and it's in those close games, not the blowouts, that Florida's defense made big play after big play two years ago.

Of course the 2007 defense had loads of playmakers in Reggie Nelson, Brandon Spikes, Derrick Harvey, Jarvis Moss and Earl Everett. After losing all but Harvey after the 2006 championship season, plus four other starters, it was no great surprise that the defense struggled last year. But now it's time to grow up and a new set

of playmakers must step forward in 2008.

The most likely candidates are defensive end Jermaine Cunningham, middle linebacker Brandon Spikes and safety Major Wright. Cunningham had 64 tackles last season and finished second to Harvey with 6.5 sacks. Spikes led the Gators with a whopping 131 tackles and has assumed the defensive leadership role filled so admirably by Siler in 2006. Wright burst onto the scene as a true freshman last year, wracking up 67 tackles, forcing four fumbles and giving the Gators a physical presence in the secondary.

If young defensive linemen like Carlos Dunlap, Justin Trattou, Terron Sanders, John Brown, Torrey Davis and incoming freshmen Msatt Patchan and Omar Hunter provide a solid push up front, the still-young cornerback crew led by Wondy Pierre-Louis, Joe Haden and Markihe Anderson will deliver much better performances this fall.

Assuming the defense improves noticeably over last year, the Gators figure to be a strong contender for both the SEC and national title. Not only are Tebow and Harvin back as featured offensive performers, but a deep set of receivers in tight ends Cornelius Ingram and Aaron Hernandez plus explosive wideouts Louis Murphy, Deonte Thompson and junior college All-America Carl Moore will give opposing defenses fits.

There is also plenty of potential for a more consistent rushing attack with Southern Cal transfer Emmanuel Moody, senior Kestahn Moore and redshirt freshman speedster Chris Rainey.

If the veteran line led by Phil Trautwein, Jim Tartt, Maurice Hurt, Carl Johnson, James Wilson plus sophomore center Maukice Pouncey stays healthy, it should be the deepest and most talented offensive front in the Meyer era.

Still, it will be up to the defense to pull its weight this time around if the Gators want to finish ahead of a highly-regarded Georgia team that pushed the Gators around on both sides of the line of scrimmage in last year's contest won by the Bulldogs, 42-30. If the defense does its part, the Nov. 1 showdown in Jacksonville could be one of the season's premier matchups, and thrust the winner squarely into the national title picture.

TENNESSEE

By Randy Moore
Rocky Top News

After nearly three decades of showing fans the same old wrinkles, Tennessee's offense is getting a face-lift.

There's a new coordinator (Dave Clawson), a new running backs coach, a new receivers coach and a new tight ends coach. There's a new West Coast flavor and, thanks to the departure of four-year starter Erik Ainge, a new quarterback.

Unfortunately for the Big Orange, the new-look offense will face the same old obstacle encountered by its predecessors – a front-loaded schedule that could result in several early-season setbacks while the team is trying to jell.

The 2008 Vols must play UCLA, Florida, Auburn and Georgia in their first six games. Florida is the only home foe in that group, so a 2-4 start is not out of the question.

On a positive note, the Vols return an outstanding tailback, Arian Foster, and a dangerous receiver, Lucas Taylor. Foster rushed for 1,193 yards last fall and also caught 39 passes. Taylor was leading the SEC in receptions (41) and receiving yards per game (103) midway through the 2007 season but a turf-toe injury limited him to 54.6 yards per game the rest of the way.

Tennessee returns four offensive linemen who started all 14 games last season and a fifth who started six games. Also back are the top six wideouts and a tight end who started six times last fall. If junior Jonathan Crompton settles in quickly behind center, Tennessee's offense could be even better than the one that averaged 32 points per game last fall.

Defensively, the Vols have nowhere to go but up. The 2007 stop unit finished ninth among the 12 SEC schools in rushing defense, 10th in scoring defense, 11th in pass defense, 11th in pass-efficiency defense and 11th in red-zone defense.

Except for middle linebacker Jerod Mayo, all of the top defenders from last fall are back, led by superstar safety Eric Berry and big-play linebacker Rico McCoy.

With senior Britton Colquitt suspended for the first five games of '08, Chad Cunningham will handle the punting chores in September and early October. The kicker again will be Daniel Lincoln, who made 21-of-29 field-goal tries in 2007.

Ultimately, Tennessee's 2008 season hinges on those first six games. If it can come through that stretch 4-2 or 5-1, it could contend for the SEC championship. If the Vols stumble to a 3-3 or 2-4 start, Phillip Fulmer's backside could get pretty warm.

SOUTH CAROLINA

By Jonathan Jolley
GamecockAnthem.com

The Gamecocks are heading into the fourth year of the Steve Spurrier era, and following a disappointing five-game losing streak to close the 2007 season, USC has a lot to prove this fall. The encouraging news for the Gamecocks is that Spurrier returns his deepest and most talented team since arriving in Columbia.

South Carolina returns 17 of 22 starters and 37 of 44 two-deep members from a year ago. The Gamecocks also return five All-SEC performers and a league-leading six Freshmen All-SEC players from the 2007 campaign.

Complete Your Championship Season With Us!

The BEST in Crimson Tide Apparel & Souvenirs



Get all your BAMA gear online @

BAMASTUFF.COM



USC will be led by a star-studded defense that includes senior All-SEC middle linebacker Jasper Brinkley, junior All-SEC safety Emanuel Cook, junior All-SEC cornerback Captain Munnerlyn, and junior All-SEC defensive end turned linebacker Eric Norwood. With 10 starters returning on defense and new defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson putting his stamp on the program, the Gamecocks are hoping to field a tougher, more physical defense in 2008.

After leading the SEC in pass defense last season, the Gamecocks, who return their top four corners and both starters at safety, will once again feature one of the top defensive backfields in the country. Munnerlyn, who cracked a bone in his foot late last fall, returns as one of the premier cover-corners in the league, and the hard-hitting Cook will once again serve as an enforcer over the middle. True freshman cornerback Akeem Auguste enrolled at USC in January and looks to be a star in the making.

The run defense has been the Achilles heel of the Gamecocks the past three years, but USC is hoping that a more experienced front seven and a new defensive scheme will help the defense improve on its league-worst 209.3 rushing yards surrendered per game last season. Returning freshman All-America defensive tackle Ladi Ajiboye and former 4-star JUCO transfer Jonathan Williams are expected to anchor the improved defensive front, while Brinkley and Norwood will team up as one of the biggest and most athletic linebacker tandems in the SEC.

On offense, South Carolina will be led by returning All-SEC wide receiver Kenny McKinley and senior tailback Mike Davis. Athletic tight end Jared Cook will warrant consideration for pre-season All-SEC honors, and he appears primed for a big year after a very strong spring. Sophomore tight end Weslye Saunders, a College Football News freshman All-America last season, also has high expectations heading into the fall.

The quarterback battle is one of the top storylines this offseason, and junior Tommy Beecher edged out sophomore Chris Smelley to be named the No. 1 quarterback heading into the summer. The battle will begin anew in pre-season camp, though, and highly touted redshirt freshman Stephen Garcia is expected to re-join the team in August after being suspended from the team for off the field problems.

The offensive line returns four starters from a year ago and is looking to improve on its 31 sacks surrendered and league-low 113.7 rushing yards per game last season. The line will be led by fifth-year senior Jamon Meredith and redshirt sophomore Heath Batchelor, both of whom the USC coaches believe possess All-SEC potential.

Overall, the Gamecocks are a deeper, more experienced team that enters the 2008 season with a chip on its shoulder after getting off to a 6-1 start but struggling down the stretch a year ago.

KENTUCKY

By Larry Vaught
Kentucky Sports Report

Kentucky coach Rich Brooks is doing nothing to downplay expectations for next year even though the Wildcats lost possibly the best group of skilled offensive players in school history.

Brooks believes a third straight bowl trip is a realistic goal and he thinks he'll have a productive offense and improved defense this season.

"We are losing some great production, but we also have some good production coming back. It is not like the cupboard is going to be empty. I said last year that it didn't mean we had turned the program around just because we won a bowl game. We have to keep going to postseason play to truly establish Kentucky as a truly viable program in the SEC," Brooks said.

That's what players like junior defensive end Jeremy Jarmon, one of UK's emerging stars, wants to see happen, too.

"I know I have to step it up on and off the field. Other guys realize that, too," Jarmon said. "Watching a guy like (linebacker) Wesley Woodyard the last three years and seeing how much he's put into this program has shown me what it takes to compete and win. Now I want to be part of moving this program forward. The seniors we lost built a great legacy. Our job is to add to that legacy."

Kentucky lost quarterback Andre Woodson, receivers Keenan Burton and Steve Johnson, tight end Jacob Tamme and running back Rafael Little off last year's team that beat national champion LSU and won the Music City Bowl.

Junior Curtis Pulley seemed to come out of spring practice as the No. 1 quarterback but he has academic work to finish during the summer to be eligible. He's not the skilled passer Woodson was, but he's a viable running threat.

Sophomore Derrick Locke could be a future star at running back after an impressive first year and UK has solid depth with senior Tony Dixon, junior Alfonso Smith and freshman Moncell Allen.

The Cats return a proven playmaker at receiver in Dicky Lyons Jr., but young players will have to fill the other roles.

"It's time for new guys to step up and make plays and have the new personalities that everybody is going to love and play their own style game to win. Change is inevitable. You just have to adjust and move forward," Lyons said.

Kentucky does return a veteran offensive line anchored by returning starters Zipp Duncan, Garry Williams and Justin Jeffries. The only question is who will replace Eric Scott at center.

"I think the offensive line will be the best since I have been here," Brooks said.

On defense, Brooks thinks his team will be vastly improved. Tackles Myron Pryor and Corey Peters are veterans and solid playmakers. Braxton Kelley, a three-year starter, has moved from middle linebacker to fill Woodyard's spot on the outside and that will allow junior Micah Johnson to start in the middle.

Kentucky's secondary will be anchored by cornerback Trevard Lindley, one of the SEC's best players, and senior safety Marcus McClinton.

"I feel better about our linebacker group than anytime since I have been here. It is a more talented, deeper group," Brooks said. "Our safeties should make more tackles than in the past year. We missed a lot of tackles at safety last year and that has to improve dramatically.

"We had a better team defensively two years ago and



Tennessee features Arian Foster

Andy Lyons/Getty

we were quite a bit better last year. This year we definitely need to have significant improvement on the defensive side and I think we will."

VANDERBILT

By Don Yates
VandyMania.com

After three straight near-miss winning seasons Vanderbilt will give it another try in 2008. Seventh year head coach Bobby Johnson and his staff lost a host of players to graduation but have plenty of talent returning to keep them a threat in the SEC.

On offense Vandy returns two experienced quarterbacks in Mackenzi Adams and Chris Nickson. Nickson was the starter at the beginning of the season but was replaced by Adams midway through the season. Adams played well completing more than 55 percent of his passes. After spring practice the starter had not been named.

At wide receiver Vanderbilt must replace the NFL bound Earl Bennett. The Commodores have some capable receivers to take over. Speedy senior Sean Walker caught 20 passes in 2007. Fellow senior George Smith has snared 76 passes during his career including 32 in 2007.

Gone from the Commodores running stable is Cassen-Jackson Garrison. Look for senior Jeff Jennings and junior Jared Hawkins to split time at the tailback position. Hawkins averaged almost seven yards a carry during the 2006 season. Redshirt sophomores Gaston Miller and Kennard Reeves should also get plenty of action.

The entire starting offensive line is gone including first-round draft choice tackle Chris Williams who will be a Chicago Bear next season. After spring practice, juniors Thomas Welch and Eric Hensley were in the lead for the open tackle positions. Junior Bradley Vierling is firmly entrenched at the center position. The guard positions will likely go to Drew Gardner, Ryan Vance or Ryan Custer. Jake Bradford, Justin Green and Austin Monahan will battle for the starting tight end position.

Vanderbilt has good talent returning on defense but must replace several standouts, including All-SEC middle linebacker Jonathan Goff. Look for junior Patrick Benoist and senior Brandon Bryant to fill Goff's vacated position. Benoist had 32 tackles and four sacks in 2007. Sophomores John Stokes and Nate Campbell should start at the other two linebacker positions.

Vanderbilt's defensive line also took a hit from graduation. Gone are tackles Theo Horrocks and Gabe Hall along with end Curtis Gatewood. Junior Greg Billinger and sophomore Adam Smotherman are the front-runners to take over the tackle positions. Steven Stone, who had four sacks in 2007 at end, is the lone line returnee. The other end position could go to lightning fast but slim Broderick Stewart.

The defensive backfield is the team's strongest position. Vandy returns all its starters, including veteran senior strong safety Reshard Langford, junior free safety Ryan Hamilton and junior cornerbacks Myron Lewis and D.J. Moore. Moore earned All-SEC honors in 2007 after intercepting six passes.

Senior place kicker Bryant Hahnfeldt (13-of-20 field goals made) returns to place kick while junior Brett Upson (39.2 yard average) will punt. ■



Jasper Brinkley of South Carolina

Doug Benc/Getty

BAMA POOL SERVICE, LLC

EMBLEMS ARE REMOVABLE

EMBLEMS FLOAT TO THE FLOOR, MOVE WITH SKIMMER NET

CHEMICAL AND WEATHER SAFE IN ALL TYPES OF POOLS

SIZE RANGE FROM A HUGE 46" TO SMALL 7" IN DIAMETER

LARGE ALABAMA POOL EMBLEM:
\$109.95 ca. + S & H

SMALL ALABAMA POOL EMBLEM:
\$14.95 PER PAIR + S & H

WITH EACH LARGE EMBLEM PURCHASED, RECEIVE A **FREE** PAIR OF UA SMALL POOL EMBLEMS

334-797-6998 PH
334-678-9575 FAX

BAMAPoolservice.com



Crimson Tide Opponents

GAME ONE: CLEMSON

Saturday, August 30, Georgia Dome, Atlanta

Location: Clemson, South Carolina

Nickname: Tigers

Colors: Orange & Purple

Conference: Atlantic Coast

Stadium: Memorial (81,473)

2007 Record: 9-4 (5-3 ACC)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 3-11

Head Coach: Tommy Bowden

Career Record: 87-46

Record at Clemson: 69-42

Starters Returning: 18

Offense (9): C Thomas Austin, RB James Davis, WR Jacoby Ford, WR Tyler Grisham, QB Cullen Harper, WR Aaron Kelly, TE Brian Linthicum, TE Michael

Palmer, RB C.J. Spiller

Defense (7): CB Crezdon Butler, CB Chris Chancellor, S Chris Clemons, S Michael Hamlin, DT Rashaad Jackson, DE Ricky Sapp, DT Dorrell Scott

Kickers (2): PK Mark Buchholz, P Jimmy Maners

Lettermen Returning: 43 (19 Offense, 21 Defense, 3 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 26 (13 Offense, 11 Defense, 2 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Sept. 3 Clemson 24, Florida State 18
Sept. 8 Clemson 49, Louisiana-Monroe 26
Sept. 15 Clemson 38, Furman 10
Sept. 22 Clemson 42, North Carolina State 20
Sept. 29 Georgia Tech 13, Clemson 3
Oct. 6 Virginia Tech 41, Clemson 23
Oct. 20 Clemson 70, Central Michigan 14
Oct. 27 Clemson 30, Maryland 17
Nov. 3 Clemson 47, Duke 10
Nov. 10 Clemson 44, Wake Forest 10
Nov. 17 Boston College 20, Clemson 17
Nov. 24 Clemson 23, South Carolina 21
Chick-fil-A Bowl
Dec. 31 Auburn 22, Clemson 21 (OT)

2008 Schedule

August 30	ALABAMA @ Atlanta
September 6	The Citadel
September 13	North Carolina State
September 20	South Carolina State
September 27	Maryland
October 4	Open
October 9	@ Wake Forest
October 18	Georgia Tech
October 25	Open
November 1	@ Boston College
November 8	@ Florida State
November 15	Duke
November 22	@ Virginia
November 29	South Carolina

GAME TWO: TULANE

Saturday, September 6, Bryant-Denny Stadium, Tuscaloosa

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Nickname: Green Wave

Colors: Olive Green & Sky Blue

Conference: Conference USA

Stadium: Louisiana Superdome (69,703)

2007 Record: 4-8 (3-5 C-USA)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 11-26-3

Head Coach: Bob Toledo

Career Record: 82-76

Record at Tulane: 4-8

Starters Returning: 17

Offense (8): QB Anthony Scelfo, FB Jermy McKinney, SE Brian King, FL Casey Robottom, RT Tyler Rice, LT Troy Kropog, LG Michael Parenton, RG Andrew Nierman

Defense (7): DE Adam Kwentua, DE Reggie Scott, MLB Evan Lee, WLB James Dillard, SLB David Kirkey, LB David Skehan, CB Josh Lumar

Kickers (2): P/K Darren deRochemont, K/P Ross Thevenot

Lettermen Returning: 49 (23 Offense, 22 Defense, 4 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 15 (9 Offense, 6 Defense, 0 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Sept. 8 Mississippi State 38, Tulane 17
Sept. 15 Houston 34, Tulane 10
Sept. 22 Tulane 35, SE Louisiana 27
Sept. 29 LSU 34, Tulane 9
Oct. 6 Army 20, Tulane 17 (OT)
Oct. 13 Alabama-Birmingham 26, Tulane 21
Oct. 20 Tulane 41, SMU 34 (OT)
Oct. 27 Memphis 28, Tulane 27
Nov. 3 Tulsa 49, Tulane 25
Nov. 10 Tulane 34, UTEP 19
Nov. 17 Tulane 45, Rice 31
Nov. 24 East Carolina 35, Tulane 12

2008 Schedule

September 6	@ ALABAMA
September 13	East Carolina
September 20	Louisiana-Monroe
September 27	SMU
October 4	Army
October 11	@ UTEP
October 18	Open
October 25	Rice
November 1	@ LSU
November 8	@ Houston
November 15	Alabama-Birmingham
November 22	@ Tulsa
November 29	@ Memphis

CRIMSON TIDE OPPONENTS

GAME THREE: WESTERN KENTUCKY

Saturday, September 13, Bryant-Denny Stadium, Tuscaloosa

Location: Bowling Green, Kentucky

Nickname: Hilltoppers

Colors: Red & White

Conference: Sun Belt (beginning 2009)

Stadium: L.T. Smith (17,500)

2007 Record: 7-5

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: First meeting

Head Coach: David Elson

Career Record: 37-22

Record at Western Kentucky: 37-22

Starters Returning: 14

Offense (7): WR Quinterrance Cooper, WR Jake Gaebler, RB Tyrell Hayden, OL Cody Hughes, OL Lloyd Pressley, WR Jessie Quinn, QB David Wolke

Defense (6): DL Jon Belcher, LB Blake Boyd, DL Dan Cline, DB Rashad Etheridge, LB Alonzo Higgins, DB Marcus Minor

Kickers (1): P Jeremy Moore

Lettermen Returning: 41 (20 Offense, 20 Defense, 1 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 19 (9 Offense, 8 Defense, 2 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Sept. 1 Florida 49, WKU 3

Sept. 8 WKU 87, West Virginia Tech 0

Sept. 15 WKU 26, Eastern Kentucky 6

Sept. 20 WKU 20, Middle Tennessee 17

Sept. 29 Bowling Green 41, WKU 21

Oct. 13 Ball State 35, WKU 12

Oct. 20 WKU 56, Indiana State 7

Oct. 27 WKU 50, North Carolina Central 14

Nov. 3 WKU 28, Chattanooga 21

Nov. 10 Troy 21, WKU 17

Nov. 17 WKU 52, Morehead State 12

Nov. 24 North Texas 27, WKU 26

2008 Schedule

August 30

September 6

September 13

September 20

September 27

October 4

October 11

October 18

October 25

November 1

November 8

November 15

November 22

November 29

Dec. 6

@ Indiana

@ Eastern Kentucky

@ ALABAMA

Murray State

@ Kentucky

@ Virginia Tech

Ball State

Florida Atlantic

Open

North Texas

@ Troy

Middle Tennessee

Open

Open

@ Florida International

GAME FOUR: ARKANSAS

Saturday, September 20, Reynolds Razorback Stadium, Fayetteville

Location: Fayetteville, Arkansas

Nickname: Razorbacks

Colors: Cardinal & White

Conference: Southeastern, Western Division

Stadium: Reynolds Razorback (72,000)

2007 Record: 8-5 (4-4 SEC)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 7-11-0

Head Coach: Bobby Petrino

Career Record: 24-6

Record at Arkansas: First season

Starters Returning: 12

Offense (5): QB Casey Dick, LG Mitch Petrus, C Jonathan Luigs, LT Jose Valdez, TE Andrew Davie

Defense (5): LE Malcolm Sheppard, RT Ernest Mitchell, RE Adrian Davis, WLB Elston Forte, SLB Freddie Fairchild

Kickers (2): PK Alex Tejada, P Jeremy Davis

Lettermen Returning: 44 (19 Offense, 22 Defense, 3 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 25 (13 Offense, 10 Defense, 2 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Sept. 1 Arkansas 46, Troy 26

Sept. 15 ALABAMA 41, Arkansas 38 (OT)

Sept. 22 Kentucky 42, Arkansas 29

Sept. 29 Arkansas 66, North Texas 7

Oct. 6 Arkansas 34, Chattanooga 15

Oct. 13 Auburn 9, Arkansas 7

Oct. 20 Arkansas 44, Ole Miss 8

Oct. 27 Arkansas 58, Florida International 10

Nov. 3 Arkansas 48, South Carolina 36

Nov. 10 Tennessee 34, Arkansas 13

Nov. 17 Arkansas 45, Mississippi State 31

Nov. 23 Arkansas 50, LSU 48 (3 OT)

Cotton Bowl

Jan. 1 Missouri 38, Arkansas 7

2008 Schedule

August 30

September 6

September 13

September 20

September 27

October 4

October 11

October 18

October 25

November 1

November 8

November 15

November 22

November 28

Western Illinois

Louisiana-Monroe (Little Rock)

@ Texas

ALABAMA

Open

Florida

@ Auburn

Kentucky

Ole Miss

Tulsa

@ South Carolina

Open

@ Mississippi State

LSU (Little Rock)

CRIMSON TIDE OPPONENTS

GAME FIVE: GEORGIA

Saturday, September 27, Sanford Stadium, Athens

Location: Athens, Georgia

Nickname: Bulldogs

Colors: Red, Black & Silver

Conference: Southeastern, Eastern Division

Stadium: Sanford (92,746)

2007 Record: 11-2 (6-2 SEC)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 25-35-4

Head Coach: Mark Richt

Career Record: 40-16

Record at Georgia: 40-16

Starters Returning: 17

Offense (7): LT Trinton Sturdivant, LG Chris Davis, RG Clint Boling, TE Tripp Chandler, QB Matthew Stafford, FB Brannan Southerland, FL

Mohamed Massaquoi

Defense (9): DE Roderick Battle, DT Jeff Owens, DT Geno Atkins, SLB Akeem Dent, MLB Dannell Ellerbe, WLB Rennie Curran, WC Prince Miller,

FS C.J. Byrd, SC Asher Allen

Kickers (1): P Brian Mimbs

Lettermen Returning: 45 (17 Offense, 25 Defense, 3 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 22 (11 Offense, 8 Defense, 3 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Sept. 1 Georgia 35, Oklahoma State 14

Sept. 8 South Carolina 16, Georgia 12

Sept. 15 Georgia 45, Western Carolina 16

Sept. 22 Georgia 26, ALABAMA 23 (OT)

Sept. 29 Georgia 45, Ole Miss 17

Oct. 6 Tennessee 35, Georgia 14

Oct. 13 Georgia 20, Vanderbilt 17

Oct. 27 Georgia 42, Florida 30

Nov. 3 Georgia 44, Troy 34

Nov. 10 Georgia 45, Auburn 20

Nov. 17 Georgia 24, Kentucky 13

Nov. 24 Georgia 31, Georgia Tech 17

Sugar Bowl

Jan. 1 Georgia 41, Hawaii 10

2008 Schedule

August 30

September 6

September 13

September 20

September 27

October 4

October 11

October 18

October 25

November 1

November 8

November 15

November 22

November 29

Georgia Southern

Central Michigan

@ South Carolina

@ Arizona State

ALABAMA

Open

Tennessee

Vanderbilt

@ LSU

Florida (Jacksonville)

@ Kentucky

@ Auburn

Open

Georgia Tech

GAME SIX: KENTUCKY

Saturday, October 4, Bryant-Denny Stadium, Tuscaloosa

Location: Lexington, Kentucky

Nickname: Wildcats

Colors: Blue & White

Conference: Southeastern, Eastern Division

Stadium: Commonwealth (67,606)

2007 Record: 8-5 (5-3 SEC)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 2-33-1

Head Coach: Rich Brooks

Career Record: 116-144-4

Record at Kentucky: 25-35

Starters Returning: 15

Offense (5): LT Garry Williams, LG Zipp Duncan, RT Justin Jeffries, WR Dicky Lyons, FB John Conner

Defense (8): DT Corey Peters, DT Myron Pryor, DE Jeremy Jarmon, SLB Johnny Williams, MLB Braxton Kelley, CB Paul Warford, FS Marcus

McClinton, CB Trevard Lindley

Kickers (2): PK Jones Seiber, P Tim Masthay

Lettermen Returning: 57 (26 Offense, 27 Defense, 4 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 17 (9 Offense, 8 Defense, 0 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Sept. 1 Kentucky 50, Western Kentucky 10

Sept. 8 Kentucky 56, Kent State 20

Sept. 15 Kentucky 40, Louisville 34

Sept. 22 Kentucky 42, Arkansas 29

Sept. 29 Kentucky 45, Florida Atlantic 17

Oct. 4 South Carolina 38, Kentucky 23

Oct. 13 Kentucky 43, LSU 37 (3 OT)

Oct. 20 Florida 45, Kentucky 37

Oct. 27 Mississippi State 31, Kentucky 14

Nov. 10 Kentucky 27, Vanderbilt 20

Nov. 17 Georgia 24, Kentucky 13

Nov. 24 Tennessee 52, Kentucky 50 (4 OT)

Music City Bowl

Dec. 31 Kentucky 35, Florida State 28

2008 Schedule

August 30

September 6

September 13

September 20

September 27

October 4

October 11

October 18

October 25

November 1

November 8

November 15

November 22

November 29

@ Louisville

Norfolk State

Middle Tennessee

Open

Western Kentucky

@ ALABAMA

South Carolina

Arkansas

@ Florida

@ Mississippi State

Georgia

Vanderbilt

Open

@ Tennessee

CRIMSON TIDE OPPONENTS

GAME SEVEN: OLE MISS

Saturday, October 18, Bryant-Denny Stadium, Tuscaloosa

Location: Oxford, Mississippi

Nickname: Rebels

Colors: Red & Navy Blue

Conference: Southeastern, Western Division

Stadium: Vaught-Hemingway (60,580)

2007 Record: 3-9 (0-8 SEC)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 9-44-2

Head Coach: Houston Nutt

Career Record: 111-70

Record at Ole Miss: First season

Starters Returning: 18

Offense (7): SE Mike Wallace, LT Michael Oher, LG Reid Neely, RG John Jerry, RT Maurice Miller, FL Marshay Green, FB Jason Cook

Defense (9): DE Marcus Tillman, DT Peria Jerry, DE Greg Hardy, SLB Ashlee Palmer, MLB Tony Fein, WLB Jamie Phillips, LCB Dustin Mouzon, SS

Johnny Brown, FS Kendrick Lewis

Kickers (2): PK Joshua Shene, P Justin Sparks

Lettermen Returning: 47 (18 Offense, 25 Defense, 4 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 17 (11 Offense, 5 Defense, 1 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Sept. 1 Ole Miss 23, Memphis 21
Sept. 8 Missouri 38, Ole Miss 25
Sept. 15 Vanderbilt 31, Ole Miss 17
Sept. 22 Florida 30, Ole Miss 24
Sept. 29 Georgia 45, Ole Miss 17
Oct. 6 Ole Miss 24, Louisiana Tech 0
Oct. 13 ALABAMA 27, Ole Miss 24
Oct. 20 Arkansas 44, Ole Miss 8
Oct. 27 Auburn 17, Ole Miss 3
Nov. 3 Ole Miss 38, Northwestern State 31
Nov. 17 LSU 41, Ole Miss 24
Nov. 23 Mississippi State 17, Ole Miss 14

2008 Schedule

August 30 Memphis
September 6 @ Wake Forest
September 13 Samford
September 20 Vanderbilt
September 27 @ Florida
October 4 South Carolina
October 11 Open
October 18 @ ALABAMA
October 25 @ Arkansas
November 1 Auburn
November 8 Open
November 15 Louisiana-Monroe
November 22 @ LSU
November 29 Mississippi State

GAME EIGHT: TENNESSEE

Saturday, October 25, Neyland Stadium, Knoxville

Location: Knoxville, Tennessee

Nickname: Volunteers

Colors: Orange & White

Conference: Southeastern, Eastern Division

Stadium: Neyland (102,038)

2007 Record: 10-4 (6-2 SEC)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 38-45-7

Head Coach: Phillip Fulmer

Career Record: 147-45

Record at Tennessee: 147-45

Starters Returning: 16

Offense (8): LG Anthony Parker, C Josh McNeil, OL Chris Scott, RT Ramon Foster, TE Jeff Cottam, WR Lucas Taylor, WR Josh Briscoe, TB Arian Foster

Defense (6): LT Demonté Bolden, RT Dan Williams, WLB Rico McCoy, LCB Brent Vinson, RCB DeAngelo Willingham, SS Eric Berry

Kickers (2): P Britton Colquitt, PK Daniel Lincoln

Lettermen Returning: 48 (21 Offense, 23 Defense, 4 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 21 (8 Offense, 13 Defense, 0 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Sept. 1 California 45, Tennessee 31
Sept. 8 Tennessee 39, Southern Miss 19
Sept. 15 Florida 59, Tennessee 20
Sept. 22 Tennessee 48, Arkansas State 27
Oct. 6 Tennessee 35, Georgia 14
Oct. 13 Tennessee 33, Mississippi State 21
Oct. 20 ALABAMA 41, Tennessee 17
Oct. 27 Tennessee 27, South Carolina 24
Nov. 3 Tennessee 59, Louisiana-Lafayette 7
Nov. 10 Tennessee 34, Arkansas 13
Nov. 17 Tennessee 25, Vanderbilt 24
Nov. 24 Tennessee 52, Kentucky 50 (4 OT)
SEC Championship
Dec. 1 LSU 21, Tennessee 14
Outback Bowl
Jan. 1 Tennessee 21, Wisconsin 17

2008 Schedule

September 1 @ UCLA
September 6 Open
September 13 Alabama-Birmingham
September 20 Florida
September 27 @ Auburn
October 4 Northern Illinois
October 11 @ Georgia
October 18 Mississippi State
October 25 ALABAMA
November 1 @ South Carolina
November 8 Wyoming
November 15 Open
November 22 @ Vanderbilt
November 29 Kentucky

CRIMSON TIDE OPPONENTS

GAME NINE: ARKANSAS STATE

Saturday, November 1, Bryant-Denny Stadium, Tuscaloosa

Location: Jonesboro, Arkansas

Nickname: Red Wolves

Colors: Scarlet & Black

Conference: Sun Belt

Stadium: ASU (30,406)

2007 Record: 5-7 (3-4 Sun Belt)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 0-1

Head Coach: Steve Roberts

Career Record: 80-74-1

Record at Arkansas State: 31-41

Starters Returning: 14

Offense (6): RB Reggie Arnold, TE David Johnson, WR Kevin Jones, QB Carey Leonard, OL Matt Mandich, WR Brandon Thompkins

Defense (5): DE Alex Carrington, DL Khari Mays, DE Brian Flagg, LB Ben Owens, LB Javon McKinnon

Kickers (3): PK Josh Arauco, P Brett Shrable, K Brian Sheffield

Lettermen Returning: 44 (19 Offense, 22 Defense, 3 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 25 (13 Offense, 10 Defense, 2 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Sept. 1 Texas 21, Arkansas State 13

Sept. 15 Arkansas State 45, SMU 28

Sept. 22 Tennessee 48, Arkansas State 27

Sept. 27 Arkansas State 35, Memphis 31

Oct. 6 Louisiana-Monroe 30, Arkansas State 13

Oct. 13 Arkansas State 52, La-Lafayette 21

Oct. 20 Middle Tennessee 24, Arkansas State 7

Oct. 27 Troy 27, Arkansas State 0

Nov. 3 Arkansas State 27, Florida International 24

Nov. 10 Florida Atlantic 34, Arkansas State 31

Nov. 15 Arkansas State 31, North Texas 27

Nov. 24 Southern Miss 16, Arkansas State 10

2008 Schedule

August 30

September 6

September 13

September 20

September 27

October 4

October 11

October 18

October 25

November 1

November 8

November 15

November 22

November 29

December 6

@ Texas A&M

Texas Southern

Southern Miss

Middle Tennessee

@ Memphis

Open

Louisiana-Monroe

Louisiana-Lafayette

Open

@ ALABAMA

@ Florida International

Open

Florida Atlantic

@ North Texas

@ Troy

GAME TEN: LSU

Saturday, November 8, Tiger Stadium, Baton Rouge

Location: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Nickname: Tigers

Colors: Purple & Gold

Conference: Southeastern, Western Division

Stadium: Tiger (92,400)

2007 Record: 12-2 (6-2 SEC)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 23-43-5

Head Coach: Les Miles

Career Record: 62-27

Record at LSU: 34-6

Starters Returning: 13

Offense (7): WR Brandon LaFell, LT Ciron Black, LG Herman Johnson, C Brett Helms, RG Lyle Hitt, TE Richard Dickson, FB Quinn Johnson

Defense (5): LE Tyson Jackson, RT Marlon Favorite, RE Kirston Pittman, MLB Darry Beckwith, FS Curtis Taylor

Kickers (1): PK Colt David

Lettermen Returning: 44 (22 Offense, 19 Defense, 3 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 24 (14 Offense, 7 Defense, 3 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Aug. 30 LSU 45, Mississippi State 0

Sept. 8 LSU 48, Virginia Tech 7

Sept. 15 LSU 44, Middle Tennessee 0

Sept. 22 LSU 28, South Carolina 16

Sept. 29 LSU 34, Tulane 9

Oct. 6 LSU 28, Florida 24

Oct. 13 Kentucky 43, LSU 37 (3 OT)

Oct. 20 LSU 30, Auburn 24

Nov. 3 LSU 41, ALABAMA 34

Nov. 10 LSU 58, Louisiana Tech 10

Nov. 17 LSU 41, Ole Miss 24

Nov. 23 Arkansas 50, LSU 48 (3 OT)

SEC Championship

Dec. 1 LSU 21, Tennessee 14

BCS Championship

Jan. 7 LSU 38, Ohio State 24

2008 Schedule

August 30

September 6

September 13

September 20

September 27

October 4

October 11

October 18

October 25

November 1

November 8

November 15

November 22

November 29

Appalachian State

Troy

North Texas

@ Auburn

Mississippi State

Open

@ Florida

@ South Carolina

Georgia

Tulane

ALABAMA

Open

Ole Miss

@ Arkansas (Little Rock)

CRIMSON TIDE OPPONENTS

GAME ELEVEN: MISSISSIPPI STATE

Saturday, November 15, Bryant-Denny Stadium, Tuscaloosa

Location: Starkville, Mississippi

Nickname: Bulldogs

Colors: Maroon & White

Conference: Southeastern, Western Division

Stadium: Davis Wade (55,082)

2007 Record: 8-5 (4-4 SEC)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 17-72-3

Head Coach: Sylvester Croom

Career Record: 17-30

Record at Mississippi State: 17-30

Starters Returning: 17

Offense (7): WR Jamayel Smith, LT Mike Brown, LG Anthony Strauder, RG Michael Gates, FB Eric Hoskins, HB Anthony Dixon, QB Wesley Carroll

Defense (8): LT Kyle Love, RT Jessie Bowman, MLB Jamar Chaney, WLB Dominic Douglas, LCB Anthony Johnson, SS Démon Glanton, FS Derek

Pegues, RCB Jasper O'Quinn

Kickers (2): PK Adam Carlson, P Blake McAdams

Lettermen Returning: 47 (20 Offense, 24 Defense, 3 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 19 (13 Offense, 6 Defense, 0 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Aug. 30 LSU 45, MSU 0

Sept. 8 MSU 38, Tulane 17

Sept. 15 MSU 19, Auburn 14

Sept. 22 MSU 31, Gardner-Webb 15

Sept. 29 South Carolina 38, MSU 21

Oct. 6 MSU 30, Alabama-Birmingham 13

Oct. 13 Tennessee 33, MSU 21

Oct. 20 West Virginia 38, MSU 13

Oct. 27 MSU 31, Kentucky 14

Nov. 10 MSU 17, ALABAMA 12

Nov. 17 Arkansas 45, MSU 31

Nov. 23 MSU 17, Ole Miss 14

Liberty Bowl

Dec. 29 MSU 10, Central Florida 3

2008 Schedule

August 30

@ Louisiana Tech

September 6

Southeastern Louisiana

September 13

Auburn

September 20

@ Georgia Tech

September 27

@ LSU

October 4

Open

October 11

Vanderbilt

October 18

@ Tennessee

October 25

Middle Tennessee

November 1

Kentucky

November 8

Open

November 15

@ ALABAMA

November 22

Arkansas

November 28

@ Ole Miss

GAME TWELVE: AUBURN

Saturday, November 29, Bryant-Denny Stadium, Tuscaloosa

Location: Auburn, Alabama

Nickname: Tigers

Colors: Orange & Blue

Conference: Southeastern, Western Division

Stadium: Jordan-Hare (87,451)

2007 Record: 9-4 (5-3 SEC)

All-Time Record Vs. Alabama: 33-38-1

Head Coach: Tommy Tuberville

Career Record: 105-53

Record at Auburn: 80-33

Starters Returning: 17

Offense (8): WR Rodriques Smith, LT Ryan Pugh, LG Tyronne Green, C Jason Bosley, RG Chaz Ramey, RT Lee Ziemba, WR Montez Billings, TB Brad Lester

Defense (7): LE Antonio Coleman, RE Sen'Derrick Marks, LB Craig Stevens, LB Tray Blackmon, LB Chris Evans, CB Jerraud Powers, SS Zac Etheridge

Kickers (2): PK Wes Bynum, P Ryan Shoemaker

Lettermen Returning: 48 (23 Offense, 20 Defense, 5 Special Teams)

Lettermen Lost: 18 (8 Offense, 9 Defense, 1 Special Teams)

2007 Results

Sept. 1 Auburn 23, Arkansas State 13

Sept. 8 South Florida 26, Auburn 23

Sept. 15 Mississippi State 19, Auburn 14

Sept. 22 Auburn 55, New Mexico State 20

Sept. 29 Auburn 20, Florida 17

Oct. 6 Auburn 35, Vanderbilt 7

Oct. 13 Auburn 9, Arkansas 7

Oct. 20 LSU 30, Auburn 24

Oct. 27 Auburn 17, Ole Miss 3

Nov. 3 Auburn 35, Tennessee Tech 3

Nov. 10 Georgia 45, Auburn 20

Nov. 24 Auburn 17, ALABAMA 10

Chick-fil-A Bowl

Dec. 31 Auburn 23, Clemson 20

2008 Schedule

August 30

Louisiana-Monroe

September 6

Southern Miss

September 13

@ Mississippi State

September 20

LSU

September 27

Tennessee

October 4

@ Vanderbilt

October 11

Arkansas

October 18

Open

October 23

@ West Virginia

November 1

@ Ole Miss

November 8

Tennessee-Martin

November 15

Georgia

November 22

Open

November 29

@ ALABAMA

Prep Prospects

Saban and company go after the best

Will Alabama be able to match last year's football recruiting effort when Coach Nick Saban and his staff pulled in the nation's number one class? For any school and coaching staff, the chances of getting back-to-back best in the nation signee groups would be unlikely. In the case of the Crimson Tide, there are factors on both positive and negative sides.

On the plus side are many of the elements that led to 2008 success. Saban is one of the top names in football and he and his staff leave no stone unturned in selling The University of Alabama to prospects and their families. Another benefit to anyone recruiting for Alabama is the reality that football is very big in Tuscaloosa. That is reflected in facilities, fan support, tradition, and any other measure one cares to make. It is always an advantage to be the state university, and that is particularly true in these days when Alabama is one of the nation's best and most popular public universities.

The single negative would seem to be that there are not nearly as many very highly rated prospects in the state of Alabama in the upcoming year as there were last season. That does not mean there are not some very, very good players. High school football in Alabama is as good as it gets at the very top. There are excellent coaches and fan support for high school football. The problem is that in some years the state senior prep football pool is the victim of its population. Alabama is not a large population state, and the Crimson Tide is going to first attempt to win the state.

Any early look at prospects is subject to change. During the course of the upcoming season, some players will have drastic improvement. Some may fall off. Injury is a part of football, sometimes a devastating part, and academics must be considered.

That was certainly the case last year as Saban and staff overwhelmed the opposition, in-state and out-of-state, to take just about every top player in Alabama.

Here is a look at the top players in Alabama who will be on Bama's wish list.

1. Dre Kirkpatrick, 6-2, 185, 4.5, Cornerback, Gadsden City High School--The super talented five-star corner received close to 30 scholarship offers before the spring of 2008, and the numbers continue to grow. He has been compared to San Diego Chargers cornerback Antonio Cromartie coming out of high school. He has pure athleticism and great instincts. Kirkpatrick will have the opportunity to compete the day he arrives on campus of the school of his choice. He plans to trim the list of favorites at the end of the summer with Alabama and Auburn as two schools remaining on the final list. Kirkpatrick has visited Tuscaloosa several times with best friend, former teammate and 2008 Tide signee, Jerrell Harris. Kirkpatrick recorded 58 tackles and six interceptions during the 2007 season. He was named ASWA Class 6A first team all-state.

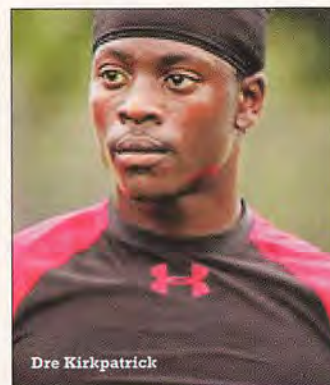
"I just really like how the coaches are still going strong,"

Kirkpatrick said. "They didn't just stop with the top recruiting class in the country. They are trying to get the top guys again this year. I also like the fact Coach Saban is a defensive coach because I'm a defensive player."

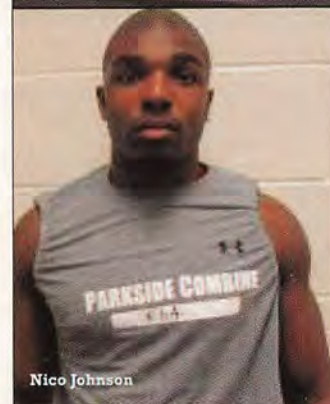
2. Nico Johnson, 6-2, 230, 4.6, Linebacker, Andalusia High School--Nico Johnson, five-star prospect, is a run-stopper with good hands and has great knowledge of the game. Johnson really saw his recruitment take flight during the spring as offers from across the country were extended. He grew up a big fan of Alabama, but his first scholarship offer came from Auburn. Prior to the summer Johnson listed favorites as Alabama, Auburn, Florida, LSU, Georgia, Tennessee and USC. All favorites have offered. Johnson made 80 tackles and blocked one field goal attempt during his junior season. He missed four games due to a partial tear in his MCL. He was named ASWA first team all-state 4A as a sophomore and repeated the honor as a junior All-State first team selection linebacker in 2007.

"I have always been an Alabama fan," Johnson said. "People around here think because I have been an Alabama fan my whole life I will go there no matter what. I am going to weigh my options, but I really like them. They have a good program, and I grew up watching them."

3. Tana Patrick, 6-3, 220, 4.6, Linebacker, Stevenson North Jackson High School--Tana Patrick, Scout.com five-star strongside linebacker, has been considered among the greats who have come out of North Jackson. He is extremely athletic as he stars on both sides of the ball as a linebacker and tight end. Speed and quickness are a couple of his greatest strengths. He has excellent closing speed and is a wrap-up tackler. He holds



Dre Kirkpatrick



Nico Johnson



Tana Patrick

Photos by Scout

scholarship offers from several schools including Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, LSU, Nebraska, Tennessee, Texas A&M and USC. Schools who are considered heavy contenders for his signature include Alabama, Auburn and Georgia. These were the first schools to offer and he has built strong relationships with all three staffs. One factor in favor of Alabama is his cousin, Ali Sharrief, plays for the Tide. He has visited Tuscaloosa several times. Patrick recorded 72 tackles, two sacks, two interceptions and two fumble recoveries in 2007. He added 15 receptions for 399 yards and 10 touchdowns. He was named AWSA Class 4A first team all-state as a sophomore and junior.

"I really like Alabama," Patrick said. "It's a real nice place. The thing that stands out to me is their coaches. I really like them."

4. Kendall Kelly, 6-3, 210, 4.5, Wide Receiver Gadsden City High School--The electric wide receiver is sensational with the ball in his hands and knows how to get to the end zone. He played multiple positions as a junior including quarterback, running back, wide receiver, tight end, linebacker and safety. He will strictly play receiver in 2008, the same position college coaches want him on the next level. Kelly has received over 20 scholarship offers including all schools in the SEC except Georgia, and North Carolina was the first school to extend an offer. He is very interested in both in-state SEC schools and could come down to a classic Alabama vs. Auburn battle. Kelly recorded 34 receptions for 595 yards, and rushed 17 times for 189 yards and scored nine touchdowns in 2007. He was named ASWA honorable mention 6A wide receiver.

"Their new offense stands out to me," Kelly said about Alabama. "It's really looking good right now. It's a plus to see them throwing the ball a lot more. I liked getting a chance to see them work."

5. AJ McCarron, 6-4, 185, 4.8, Quarterback, Mobile St. Paul's High School--The four-star prospect is compared to former Alabama quarterback Brodie Croyle. McCarron is pencil thin and must continue to add weight to his frame. He has one of the strongest arms the state has seen since Croyle. He is a great leader on and off the field, great knowledge of the game and works on mechanics daily. He is a star pitcher on the baseball diamond and a good chance he will get drafted in the 2009 MLB draft. McCarron originally planned to announce his decision during the 2007 football season, but moved it back until the spring. McCarron was 145-of-232 for 2,540 yards and 26 touchdowns with only three interceptions in 2007. He was named ASWA All-State first team quarterback and ASWA Super 12 (all classes).

"I love that Alabama got the number one class in the country," McCarron said. "I am definitely real high on Alabama. You can't ask for anything better. You have a top three coaching staff in the country, and a top three head coach in the nation. They have some of the best fans in the country. I love the tradition and the recruiting class they brought in."

6. William Ming, 6-4, 250, 4.7, Defensive End, Athens High School--William Ming, four-star prospect, could play either side of the ball at the next level. He is recruited as both a tight end and defensive end. Ming is very athletic and also plays baseball. He is bigger than most linemen he matches up against and is a wrecking force on the defensive line. His recruitment has blossomed, as he has collected over 20 scholarship offers from schools across the

country. Ming will likely wait until during his senior season before making a decision and could wait until December. He grew up an Alabama fan and is from a family filled with Crimson Tide fans. He is keeping an open mind with his recruitment, but Alabama is considered the team to beat. Ming had 67 tackles with 17 for a loss along with five sacks and a fumble recovery in 2007. He was named Decatur Daily All-Area Defensive first team for his performance.

"I grew up an Alabama fan," Ming said. "It has always been my dream to play there."

7. D.J. Fluker 6-7, 326, 4.8, Defensive Tackle, Foley High School--It seems only yesterday that D.J. Fluker was a freshman at McGill-Toolen who started on the defensive line in the spring game. Recruiters and fans watching the game were amazed to see a monster 6-5, 295-pound lineman who was 15 years old with a size 20 shoe. Two years later after a brief stop in Mississippi, Fluker is back in Alabama playing for Foley Coach Todd Watson. He has grown to 6-7, 326-pounds and is up to a size 22 shoe. Fluker is still growing and could find himself becoming an offensive tackle. He is extremely quick for his size and has a lot of power. He was the Tide's first commitment for the class of 2009 when announced in November 2007. He has remained solid with his decision after receiving offers from every school in the Southeast.

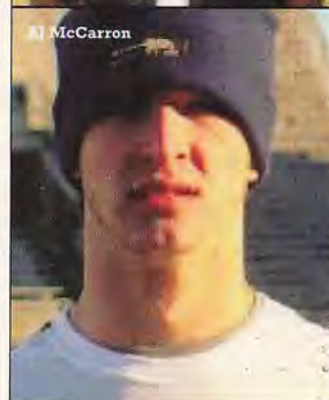
"Every time I go to Alabama I just feel at home," Fluker said. "I just love the feeling I get when I go up there. There is nothing that can change the feelings I have for Alabama."

8. Jamar Travis, 6-1, 290, 4.9, Defensive Tackle, Brewton W.S. Neal High School--Give a defensive coordinator the opportunity to draw up his ideal nose tackle and the picture would probably look a lot like Jamar Travis. He is a true run-stopper, an animal in the middle of the defensive line. He is quick, very aggressive with tremendous strength, benching over 400 pounds. Travis holds numerous offers including Alabama, Auburn, Florida State and Georgia Tech. The Tide and Tigers are at the top of the list for his signature. He was named first team all-state by the ASWA for his junior season making 60 tackles and four sacks

"I really feel like I could excel at Alabama," Travis



Kendall Kelly



AJ McCarron



William Ming

Photos by Scout

said. "I like the location and the coaches. I like Coach (Lance) Thompson and Coach (Nick) Saban a lot. They told me that they like my explosiveness off the ball and how I play from sideline-to-sideline."

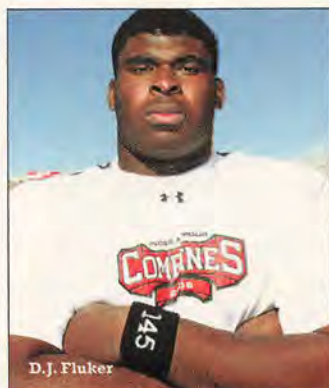
9. Terrence Coleman, 6-1, 250, 4.7, Defensive Tackle, Mobile Williamson High School--Coleman quickly exploded on the recruiting scene shortly after the Under Armour/Scout.com combine in Mobile in January. Coleman was a standout at the event during the one-on-one competition and his highlight tape hitting Scout.com a few days later was beneficial as college coaches from across the country wanted to see more. He has incredible quickness off the line and is a tenacious defender. Coleman was named ASWA Class 5A all-state honorable mention as a junior recording 116 tackles, nine sacks and 26 quarterback hurries. He gave an early commitment to Auburn and appears solid with the decision. Alabama Assistant Coach Lance Thompson has continued to recruit Coleman.

"I know Alabama has a good school, because they had a lot of good signees this year," Coleman said. "I played against Burton Scott and Mark Barron this season, and they impressed me a lot. Nick Saban is a great coach, and I think they will have a pretty good team this year."

10. Anthony Orr, 6-4, 260, 4.7, Harvest Sparkman High School--Orr emerged at the Under Armour/Scout.com combine in Mobile in January. Orr has a great frame and could play defensive end or tackle at the next level. He is quick off the line and overpowers offensive linemen. He is great at chasing down defenders from the back side and understands the game. Orr received his first offers from Alabama and Auburn and has added offers from Clemson and Tennessee. Both SEC in-state schools have an advantage over the out-of-state schools with the Tide in the driver's seat. Orr will likely wait until the end of his senior season before announcing a decision. Orr recorded 60 tackles and seven sacks during the 2007 season.

"It's great Alabama finished with the top class," Orr said. "I like them. I like everything about Alabama."

That is the pre-season Top Ten Prospects in the state of



D.J. Fluker



Jamar Travis



Anthony Orr

Photos by Scout

Alabama. Here are some others who are major college prospects:

11. Quinton Dial, 6-5, 310, 5.1, Defensive Tackle, Pinson Clay Chalkville High School--Quinton Dial is recruited for both the defensive and offensive line. He made 61 tackles, seven for loss, four sacks and four fumble recoveries in 2007. He has several offers including Alabama, Auburn, Florida and Tennessee. Alabama appears to have an early advantage for his signature.

12. Jamontay Pilson, 6-2, 260, 4.9, Defensive End, Greenville High School--Pilson is an athletic defensive end who had a very productive junior season recording 97 tackles and 12 sacks. Pilson received offers from Alabama and Auburn before giving a commitment to the Tigers. He is solid with his decision to Auburn.

13. Gerald West 5-10, 170, 4.4, Cornerback Mobile Davidson High School--Gerald West was the top cornerback performer at the Under Armour/Scout.com combine in Mobile in January. West quickly received offers from Alabama, Auburn, Mississippi State, Ole Miss and Tennessee after the event. He does not list any favorites, but Alabama is a leading contender. West recorded 36 tackles and three interceptions as a junior.

14. Brandon Moore, 6-5, 320, 5.2 Offensive Tackle Montgomery Carver High School--Brandon Moore could play on either side of the ball. Numerous offers have arrived including Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Mississippi State and Ole Miss. The in-state SEC schools have the early advantage. Moore had 60 tackles and seven sacks during his junior 2007 season.

15. Tim Simon, 6-2, 200, 4.6, Running Back, Cordova High School--Tim Simon is a multi-position recruit. He could play running back or linebacker and has numerous offers including Alabama, Auburn, Kentucky and Vanderbilt. He had a fantastic junior season and helped lead Cordova to the Class 3A state championship. He rushed for 1,566 yards on 176 carries and 33 touchdowns. Simon was honored with The Birmingham News 2007 Super All-Metro Team, ASWA Super 12 at running back as a junior and all-state 3A running back first team.

16. Mardrecas Hood, 6-3, 180, 4.5, Wide Receiver Reform Pickens County High School--Mardrecas Hood is a truly gifted athlete and will need to determine if football or basketball is his sport at the next level. He had 16 receptions for 506 yards and six touchdowns in 2007. He had 39 tackles and four interceptions on defense. He missed four games due to a high ankle sprain. Hood was named ASWA Class 2A all-state honorable mention.

17. Orwin Smith, 6-0, 190, 4.6, Running Back, Central of Phenix City High School--Orwin Smith is one of the top running backs in the South. He has received several offers including Alabama and Auburn. The in-state SEC schools are among favorites along with Georgia Tech. He rushed for 1,278 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2007.

18. Brandon Heavens, 5-10, 170, 4.4, Wide Receiver, Bessemer Academy High School--It's not often a player from AISA is heavily recruited, but not everyone accounts for over 3,000 yards in a season. Heavens was named the AISA Back of the Year after

recording 1,236 yards receiving, 730 yards rushing, 585 kickoff return yards and 568 punt return yards with 22 total touchdowns. Heavens was named Super All-Metro and ASWA first team all-state. He received offers from Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee, Mississippi State and Ole Miss. He committed to Auburn in April.

19. Amos Draper, 6-3, 230, 4.7, Defensive End, Tanner High School--Amos Draper will see his stock continue to rise as his highlight film is viewed more and more by college coaches. Draper is a monster off the end and has great hands with his first offer coming from Vanderbilt. Tanner Coach, Laron White, is a former player for the Tide.

20. Alvin Hines, 6-0, 195, 4.5, Safety, Pelham High School--Alvin Hines holds a couple of SEC offers coming from Auburn and Kentucky. Alabama is expressing interest in the football and baseball standout. Hines recorded approximately 80 tackles and one interception in 2007. He was named All-Shelby County for his performance.

21. Javen Harris, 6-1, 220, 4.65, Linebacker, Eufaula High School--Javen Harris has been a well known prospect since his sophomore season. His former teammate, Courtney Upshaw, signed with Alabama in 2008. Harris has an offer from Central Florida and is receiving interest from Alabama. Harris recorded 95 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions during his junior season.

22. Hans Rice 6-3, 190, 4.6, Linebacker Eufaula High School--Hans Rice is a star linebacker with Central Florida and Ole Miss the first two schools to extend scholarship offers. Rice collected 87 tackles, eight for loss, two sacks, two recovered fumbles and three interceptions in 2007.

23. Arthur Williams, 6-2, 175, 4.5, Wide Receiver, Smiths Glenwood School--High School-Arthur Williams performed extremely well at the Under Armour/Scout.com events in Alabama (Mobile and Auburn). Williams holds numerous scholarship offers including Georgia Tech, Kentucky and Vanderbilt. He had 20 receptions for 675 yards and six touchdowns in 2007.

24. Clint Moseley, 6-4, 195, 4.6, Quarterback, Leroy High School--Clint Moseley's recruitment is starting to pick up steam and received his first scholarship offer from Alabama-Birmingham. Moseley passed for 3,259 yards and 26 touchdowns while also leading the team in rushing with 745 yards and 11 touchdowns. He was named the Class 2A Back of the Year after leading Leroy to the Class 2A state crown.

25. Darrell Smith, 6-3, 225, 4.7, Tight End/Defensive End, Gadsden City High School--Darrell Smith is a prospect who has really shot up the recruiting charts. Smith is an athletic prospect who played on the offensive line for the Titans during the 2007 season. He has participated in two Under Armour/Scout.com events playing defensive end and tight end. He has excelled at both while receiving offers from Alabama-Birmingham and South Alabama. He is also receiving interest from Alabama. He was named ASWA Class 6A honorable mention all-state as a junior.

Tide Also Looks Out Of Alabama

Saban has made it clear that he considers the Crimson Tide's

recruiting area to be anywhere within a five-hour drive of Tuscaloosa. And if a top prospect is farther away than that, the border expands.

The combination of Saban, one of the nation's best known coaches, and the Crimson Tide, one of the most prestigious college football names, makes it possible for Alabama to make the nation its recruiting base, although it is reasonable to expect Bama to continue to seek first in Alabama, then in the Southeast.

The University of Alabama has blanketed the country looking for the top prospects to fill their needs for the class of 2009. Numerous prospects hold scholarship offers. Here are some of the top out-of-state targets:

Marlon Brown, 6-5, 205, 4.5, Wide Receiver, Memphis (Tennessee) Harding Academy--Marlon Brown is a sensational wide out with incredible potential. He holds scholarship offers from schools across the country, and is ranked as the number two receiver by Scout.com. He trimmed a list of favorites in the spring to 17 schools with Alabama among the group.

"I like Alabama's coaching staff," said Brown. "They're a nice group of coaches from what I've seen and heard from them on the telephone."

Brown does not expect to make a decision until closer to signing day. He had 41 receptions for 861 yards and six touchdowns during his junior season. He added 58 carries for 629 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Chris Davenport, 6-4, 311, 5.2, Defensive Tackle, Mansfield, Louisiana--Chris Davenport is one of the most explosive, powerful defensive tackles in the nation. The Scout.com five-star recruit reminds many of former LSU defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey. Davenport lists his top two schools as LSU and Alabama with the USC Trojans trailing. He plans a return visit to Tuscaloosa before making a decision.

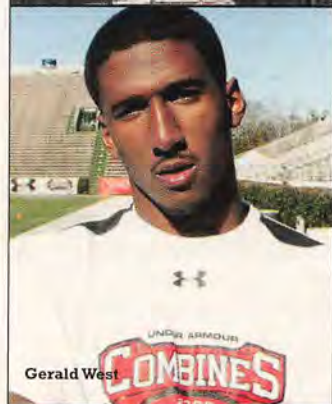
"I went to the LSU game (in Tuscaloosa) last year, and the atmosphere was great," Davenport said. "Everybody made me feel at home when I was over there. I liked the people over there."

He recorded 120 tackles, 20 for losses, 18 sacks, four forced fumbles and three recovered fumbles as a junior.

Rueben Randle, 6-3, 195, 4.5, Wide Receiver, Bastop,



Quinton Dial



Gerald West



Darrell Smith

Photos by Scout

Louisiana--Rueben Randle is rated as a five-star recruit by Scout.com and the nation's number three receiver. Schools from across the country have offered scholarships, and he is open with his decision. LSU appears the team to beat for his signature. Randle visited Tuscaloosa for Junior Day.

"I like the offense at Alabama," Randle said. "It's a pro-styled offense. They showed me everything and made me feel real comfortable. It also helps that I am pretty familiar with Coach Saban."

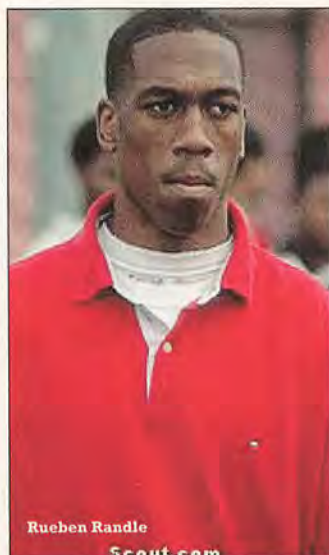
Randle recorded 55 receptions for 1,058 yards and 11 touchdowns during his junior season.

Marcus Hall, 6-5, 293, 5.2, Offensive Tackle, Cleveland (Ohio) Glenville--Marcus Hall is rated a five-star prospect by Scout.com, and the number two offensive tackle in the nation. Ohio State is considered the team to beat for his signature, but he expects to visit Tuscaloosa.

"They have a really good fan base," Hall said of Alabama. "They really love their football down there. Also I had a chance to meet Coach Nick Saban before, and I like how he's all about business. He doesn't beat around the bush."

Craig Drummond, 6-5, 260, 4.8, Defensive End, Chicago Morgan Park--Craig Drummond, a Scout.com five-star prospect, kept everything close to the vest during the spring. He has not named any favorites, but has said Alabama is one school he hopes to visit. He is explosive off the line, and he recorded 18 sacks as a junior. Other schools that have offered include Florida, Illinois, Ohio State, Tennessee, USC and Wisconsin.

Damario Jeffrey, 6-3, 211, 4.5, Linebacker, Columbia, South Carolina--Damario Jeffrey is a versatile prospect who could play several positions, but will play linebacker or safety on the next level. Jeffrey is recruited by Alabama as a safety and lists the Tide as one of the leaders for his



Photos by Scout

signature. He is rated a four-star prospect by Scout.com and the number seven weakside linebacker.

As a junior, Jeffrey had 109 tackles, four interceptions, four blocked punts, four sacks, and four forced fumbles. He caught 13 passes for 289 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for 150 yards and one touchdown.

"Coach Saban is a hands-on coach and has NFL experience," Jeffrey said. "Plus he's also the secondary coach, so he'd be working with me directly, which would be great. I also heard about the 92,000 people that came to the spring game last year. I thought if they could get that many to come to a spring game, they'll definitely bring it during the season. I can't wait to see a game there."

Branden Smith, 5-11, 180, 4.4, Cornerback, Atlanta Washington--Branden Smith is one of the top defensive backs in the Southeast, ranks as number 10 in country, and is a four-star rated prospect by Scout.com. Smith has received scholarship offers from several schools across the country and is one of the fastest players in the state of Georgia. He won the fastest man label in the city of Atlanta with a 10.62 100 meters as a junior

Eric Gordon, 5-11, 186, 4.4, Cornerback, Nashville (Tennessee) Hillsboro--Eric Gordon is another defensive back high on the Tide's wish list with Alabama as one of the first schools to offer a scholarship. He has received over 10 offers including Tennessee, Oklahoma, Vanderbilt and Clemson. The Scout.com four-star prospect is high on Alabama. Gordon recorded 41 catches for 816 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior. He made 77 tackles, three interceptions with two returned for touchdowns. He also had a kickoff and a punt return for touchdowns.

"I really like the stadium and the campus at Alabama," Gordon said. "They have a real nice atmosphere. I like how the head coach works with my position. I really like the facilities."

Chris Bonds, 6-4, 275, 4.8, Defensive End, Columbia (South Carolina) Richland Northeast--Chris Bonds, Scout.com four-star prospect, took an unofficial visit to Alabama earlier in the spring and left with the Crimson Tide as his top school. Alabama is in a great position to land the prospect from South Carolina.

"Alabama just really impressed me," Bonds said. "I know Coach Saban is going to get the team in the right direction. I have a lot of friends who graduated, not football players, who are going to Alabama."

Johnnie Farms, 6-2, 280, 5.1, Offensive Guard, Perry, Georgia--Johnnie Farms is one of the best offensive linemen in the south. He could play guard or center on the next level. He is quick off the line and has a mean streak. Alabama and Florida rank at the top of his list.

"I really like the players and the coaches a lot," Farms said of Alabama. "I have a feel for Alabama now. I got to see how college life is for a few days. Alabama has jumped out in the lead for me."

Trent Richardson 5-11, 210, 4.5, Pensacola (Florida) Escambia County--Trent Richardson, Scout.com four-star running back, is one of the Tide's top targets. Richardson has collected scholarship offers from schools across the country, but it appears the battle will come down to Alabama, Florida and LSU. Alabama was the first school to extend an offer, and he is very high on the Crimson Tide staff. He expects to make a decision before the beginning of the 2008 season. Richardson finished his junior season (seven games) with 1,490 yards and 15 touchdowns.

2009 ALABAMA FOOTBALL PROSPECTS

Andrew Bone of 'BAMA Magazine is also Scout Media assistant regional manager for coverage of recruiting. He and others in the Scout Media recruiting staff have made the determination that the following players and Alabama have some interest in one another.

Name, Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Time	Hometown (High School)
Kenyatta Abernathy, S	6-1	201	4.6	Tuscumbia (Deshler)
Kenny Bell, WR	6-1	170	4.4	Rayville, La.
Jheranie Boyd, WR	6-3	185	4.45	Gastonia, N.C. (Ashbrook)
Josh Boyd, DT	6-3	275	4.85	Philadelphia, Miss.
Marlon Brown, WR	6-5	205	4.5	Memphis (Harding Acad.)
Alex Buford, S	5-11	175	4.5	Thomasville
Alex Bullard, OT	6-3	270	N/A	Brentwood, Tenn. (Academy)
Rex Burkhead, S	5-11	196	4.6	Plano, Texas
Montrell Conner, RB	6-1	210	4.5	Monroe, La. (Ouachita Parish)
Fletcher Cox, DE	6-4	230	4.8	Yazoo City, Miss.
Chris Davenport, DE	6-5	320	5.2	Mansfield, La.
Craig Drummond, DE	6-5	260	N/A	Chicago (Morgan Park)
Jonathan Edwards, CB	5-9	185	4.5	Tuscaloosa (Central)
Johnnie Farms, OG	6-2	280	N/A	Perry, Ga.
Chris Faulk, OT	6-5	276	5.4	Slidell, La. (Northshore)
Quan Fletcher, LB	6-1	240	4.7	Miami (Dr. Krop)
*D.J. Fluker, DE	6-6	327	4.9	Foley
Stephon Gilmore, S	6-0	180	4.5	Rock Hill, S.C. (South Pointe)
Eric Gordon, CB	5-11	186	4.4	Nashville (Hillsboro)
A.J. Graham, QB	6-3	195	4.6	Tallahassee (Godby)
Javen Harris, LB	6-1	220	4.6	Eufaula
Alvin Hines, S	6-0	195	4.5	Pelham
Mardrecas Hood, WR	6-3	180	4.5	Reform (Pickens Co.)
James Jackson, CB	5-11	175	4.3	Grand Ledge, Mich.
Will Jackson, OG	6-4	280	5.1	Knoxville, Tenn. (Farragut)
Alshoun Jeffery, WR	6-4	200	4.6	St. Matthews, S.C. (Calhoun Co.)
Nico Johnson, LB	6-2	230	4.6	Andalusia
Jarvis Jones, LB	6-3	205	4.55	Columbus, Ga. (Carver)
Mike Jones, S	6-2	195	4.5	Orlando, Fla. (Edgewater)
Kendall Kelly, WR	6-4	205	4.5	Gadsden (Gadsden City)
Prince Kent, S	6-2	193	4.6	Norcross, Ga.
Dre Kirkpatrick, CB	6-3	180	4.5	Gadsden (Gadsden City)
Drew Little, QB	6-5	240	N/A	McDonough, Ga. (Henry Co.)
Austin Long, OT	6-5	270	N/A	Memphis (Briarcrest Ch.)
*A.J. McCarron, QB	6-4	180	4.8	Mobile (St. Paul's)
Eric McDaniel, DT	6-1	297	5.0	Calhoun, Ga.
*Darius McKeller, OT	6-6	295	N/A	Jonesboro, Ga.
William Ming, DE	6-4	230	4.7	Athens
Barkevious Mingo, LB	6-4	200	4.6	West Monroe, La.
Sam Montgomery, DE	6-4	220	N/A	Greenwood, S.C.
Clint Moseley, QB	6-4	196	4.7	Leroy
Anthony Orr, DE	6-4	261	4.8	Harvest (Sparkman)
Tana Patrick, LB	6-4	220	4.6	Stevenson (North Jackson)
Jamal Patterson, WR	6-2	188	4.56	McDonough, Ga. (Henry Co.)
Rueben Randle, WR	6-3	195	4.5	Bastrop, La.
Trent Richardson, RB	5-11	210	4.5	Pensacola (Escambia)
Brandon Scott, WR	6-4	215	4.5	Woodbridge, Va. (Forest Park)
Terry Shankle, CB	6-0	180	4.5	Norwood, N.C. (So. Stanley)
Russell Shepard, QB	6-2	180	4.5	Houston (Cypress Ridge)
Tim Simon, RB	6-2	200	4.5	Dordova
Anthony Steen, OG	6-4	295	N/A	Clarksdale, Miss. (Lee Acad.)
Mikey Tamburo, QB	6-1	178	4.6	Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett)
Donavan Tate, S	6-3	195	4.5	Cartersville, Ga.
Brandon Taylor, DT	6-1	300	5.0	Miami (Dr. Krop)
Frankie Telfort, LB	5-11	197	4.55	Miami (Gulliver Prep)
Olivier Vernon, DE	6-2	225	4.6	Hialeah, Fla. (American)
D.J. Vinson, RB	6-0	190	4.6	Pinson (Clay-Chalkville)
Quinten Washington, OG	6-4	322	N/A	St. Stephen, S.C. (Timberland)
Gerald West, CB	5-10	170	4.45	Mobile (Davidson)
*Kellen Williams, OT	6-5	288	N/A	Snellville, Ga. (Brookwood)

* Committed to Alabama

It's Called Tradition

Alabama football has quite a history

When I was writing a book about Alabama football players, "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide," I thought it prudent to revisit an essay from early 1971. Dr. David Mathews was president of The University and he had been called upon to say a few words at Bama's football banquet following a disappointing 1970 season.

He said:

"No one can help but be aware of the rich tradition that is associated with this team and with this university. There are people too old now to go to the games who still remember wearing a crimson-and-white jersey, men for whom The University of Alabama has great meaning. There are also some who are too young to be left alone in the stadium who would like one day to wear and crimson-and-white jersey and to be a part of The University of Alabama. That is tradition, and it is something which is very important and very much a part of The University of Alabama.

"Tradition is a burden in many ways. To have a tradition like ours means that you can't quit; to have a tradition like ours means that you can't lose your 'cool;'



BAMA Magazine

to have a tradition like ours means you have to show 'class,' even when you are not quite up to it; to have a tradition like ours means that you have to do some things you don't want to do, and even some you think you can't do, simply because the tradition demands it of you. On the other hand, tradition is the thing that sustains us. Tradition is that which allows us to prevail in ways that we could not otherwise.

"I am convinced that greatness in any field has to come out of some kind of tradition. And our job is to make certain that the tradition that is The University of Alabama means as much and stands for as much for those who are yet to come as it has for us and those who have gone before us."

For those who do not have a tradition like Alabama's (and most don't), the concept is a difficult one to grasp. Those who have not had a coach equal to Paul W. Bryant (and most haven't), don't understand reverence for a man gone for more than 25 years.

Recent times have been difficult ones for Alabama football. But as Dr. Matthews pointed out in a previous time of difficulty, tradition sustains us.

Alabama is considered to have a dozen national championships. Some may quibble with the bona fides of some of those titles, and we'll concede that not all are equal.

In addition to Alabama, six Southeastern Conference teams have won consensus national football championships. Those six—LSU (3), Florida (2), Tennessee (2), Georgia (1), Ole Miss (1) and Auburn (1)—combined have ten titles. The Crimson Tide has seven.

Alabama is not challenged as the most dominant team in SEC history with 21 championships more than one-and-a-half times more than runner-up Tennessee.

Alabama sits high above the all-time SEC standings.

And Alabama has a winning record against every SEC football opponent.

Alabama claims 12 national championships—it could be as many as 18 according to some sources, while Bama's rivals claim the Tide has no more than six—as if that isn't very many. (The SEC usually lists only those awarded by the Associated Press, United Press International, Coaches Poll and BCS, which is seven for Alabama.) However they are counted, Alabama ranks among the national leaders in national titles.

Alabama also is among the nation's best in victories and winning percentage. No team has a bowl tradition like the Crimson Tide, nationally number one in bowl appearances (55) and bowl victories (31), with much of Bama bowl success coming in the major bowls with national implications.

The Crimson Tide is best in the nation in seasons with 10 or more victories at 28.

Alabama is one of that small handful of college football teams that is truly national. Notre Dame, of course. Oklahoma, Texas, Southern Cal, Michigan, Ohio State, and Penn State are there. Teams like FSU, Miami, Nebraska and Tennessee lurk just outside the elite.

Alabama will concede, as many of its rivals point out, that Alabama Crimson Tide football tradition did benefit from having the greatest coach of all time, Paul William "Bear" Bryant.

The Bryant record is mind-boggling, even a quarter century after his death. He was head coach at Maryland (6-2-1 in 1945), Kentucky (60-23-5, 1946-53), Texas A&M (25-14-2, 1954-57) and Alabama (1958-82, 232-46-9) giving him a coaching record of 323-85-17. His Alabama teams won 13 SEC championships and he also won a league title at Kentucky. His Bama teams won six national championships, in 1961, 1964, 1965, 1973, 1978 and 1979. His Bama record included a 25-0 mark in homecoming games. Alabama was 72-2 in games at Bryant-Denny Stadium (and had a 57-game Tuscaloosa winning streak), 68-15-5 at Birmingham's Legion Field. The Alabama teams of 1977-80 were the first in NCAA history to win 44 games in four years. His Bama squads made 24 consecutive bowl trips, including seven Sugar Bowls, five Orange Bowls, four Cotton Bowls, four Liberty Bowls, two Bluebonnet Bowls and one Gator Bowl.

Bryant was named National Coach of the Year in 1961, 1971 and 1973. He was inducted into the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame when first eligible in 1983. He was SEC Coach of the Year ten times, nine at Alabama, and was selected as the SEC Coach of the 20th Century.

Of his 25 Alabama teams, 13 won ten or more games. In addition to the national championships, Alabama finished in the nation's top ten an astonishing 19 times under Bryant.

It's no wonder that a core of college football fans still revere him, that the Bryant Museum on the campus of The University of Alabama draws thousands of visitors each year, and that books are still written about him.

But Alabama has a history of over 80 years of excellent football in addition to the Bryant years, much of it based on Rose Bowl success under Wallace Wade and Frank Thomas. They preceded Bryant into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Prior to 1965, the wire services—Associated Press and United Press International—selected the national champion based on regular season play. Alabama won the 1964 national championship, but then lost to Texas in a controversial Orange Bowl when officials determined Tide quarterback Joe Namath did not get across the goalline in the final moments.

The next year the AP announced with great pomposity that it would now include bowl game results in its national championship determination. That proved to be a great stroke of luck for Alabama. And the Tide took advantage of the opportunity.

When LSU upset number two Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl and UCLA defeated number one Michigan State in the Rose Bowl, that made the Orange Bowl—played in prime time—the national championship game.

Alabama was far more dominating than the final score of 39-28 might suggest, and the Tide was voted number one.

The next year, in deference to Notre Dame, which did not go to bowl games in those days, the AP reversed field and decided it would crown its national champion based on regular season play only. Notre Dame played to a 10-10 tie with Michigan State, a cowardly plan that would have brought ridicule to any team other than the Fighting Irish, but which brought the national championship to Notre Dame. Meanwhile, Alabama was

ALABAMA COACHES' RECORDS

Coach	Years	Won-Lost-Tied	Pct.
E.B. Beaumont	1892	2-2-0	.500
Eli Abbnott	1893-95, 1902	7-12-0	.368
Otto Wagonhurst	1896	2-1-0	.667
Allen McCants	1897	1-0-0	1.000
W.A. Martin	1899	3-1-0	.750
M. Griffin	1900	2-3-0	.400
M.H. Harvey	1901	2-1-2	.600
W.B. Blount	1903-04	10-7-0	.588
Jack Leavenworth	1905	6-4-0	.600
J.W.H. Pollard	1906-09	20-4-5	.776
Guy Lowman	1910	4-4-0	.500
D.V. Graves	1911-14	21-12-3	.625
Thomas Kelly	1915-17	17-7-1	.700
Xen C. Scott	1919-22	29-9-3	.744
Wallace Wade	1923-30	61-13-3	.812
Frank Thomas	1931-46	115-24-7	.812
H.D. Drew	1947-54	55-29-7	.643
J.B. Whitworth	1955-57	4-24-2	.167
Paul W. Bryant	1958-82	232-46-9	.824
Ray Perkins	1983-86	32-15-1	.677
Bill Curry	1987-89	26-10-0	.722
Gene Stallings	1990-96	70-16-1	.810
Mike DuBose	1997-2000	24-23-0	.511
Dennis Franchione	2001-02	17-8-0	.680
Mike Shula	2003-06	26-24-0	.511
Nick Saban	2007-	7-6-0	.538
Totals		795-305-44	.714

sailing through an undefeated, untied season that culminated with a meaningless (insofar as the national championship was concerned) 34-7 Sugar Bowl win over Nebraska.

Alabama's next national championship bowl game was a great disappointment in an otherwise extraordinary season. In 1971, after back-to-back five-loss seasons, Bryant switched Bama from a pro-style offense to the wishbone. Everyone knows the story of Alabama opening the season against number one USC in Los Angeles and defeating the Trojans, 17-10. From there it was on to an 11-0 regular season, including a 31-7 win over undefeated Auburn at the end of regular season play. That put Alabama number two in the polls and matched against Nebraska in the Orange Bowl.

This time it was Nebraska coming out on top, romping to a 38-6 win and winning the national championship.

While the AP was now firmly committed to a post-bowl poll, UPI continued to award its hardware based on regular season results. In 1973 that meant undefeated Alabama was UPI's national champion. But to win all the other national championship awards, including the more widely-recognized AP title, Alabama would have to defeat Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl.

Alabama and Bryant's first game against Notre Dame was considered the game of all time, and the contest lived up to its billing. Both teams were excellent and the Irish won the game with a gutsy and successful play. Backed up to their goalline and facing third and long, quarterback Tom Clements passed to tight end Robin Weber and Weber made his only reception of the year, a 35-yard gain that enabled Notre Dame to salt away a 24-23 decision.

For decades, that game film has been the most requested from the Sugar Bowl. It supplanted the previous most-requested, Duke's 29-26 win over Bama's valiant War Babies on January 1, 1945.

Alabama thought it had turned a highly-publicized Sugar Bowl victory into another national championship at the end of the 1977 season. The Tide was ranked third going into the bowl games and Texas was number one. Alabama and Bryant, the winningest coach in the nation at the time, was going against Ohio State and Woody Hayes, who was second to Bryant in victories.

Alabama rolled to a 35-6 win and 11-1 record. The lone loss had been by a touchdown to Nebraska in Lincoln early in the year and the Crimson Tide had defeated number one ranked Southern Cal in Los Angeles. And when fifth-ranked Notre Dame—which had lost during the year to a woeful Ole Miss—defeated number one Texas, it was thought that the Crimson Tide would be number one.

But the power of Notre Dame among national media is strong, and the Irish poll vaulted Alabama in one of the closest and most controversial votes in history.

It is often pointed out that Alabama came close to the so-called Three-Peat twice. Bama's 1966 team was denied by a blemished Notre Dame, and the Tide's 1977 team—which would be followed by national championship squads in 1978 and 1979—was also edged by the Fighting Irish in AP voting.

In 1978, Alabama fought back from a loss to Southern Cal to rise to number two in the nation. That put Bama and Bryant against another traditional power, Penn State, and another legendary coach, Joe Paterno, in the Sugar Bowl. Anyone who saw the game remembers it as one of the most tense imaginable, every play seemingly the play that would mean the difference between victory and defeat. And most remember the fourth down play of Penn State at the Alabama goalline as that play. Alabama held three times at the one-yard line and Bama's 14-7 win was good for the national title.

There wasn't much drama as Alabama repeated in 1979. The Tide moved into the number one spot after a 40-0 win over Florida in Gainesville early in the season and went on to an undefeated season, outscoring opponents 383-67, including an easy 24-9 win over Lou Holtz's Arkansas Razorbacks in the Sugar Bowl.

Alabama has had only one national championship bowl opportunity since, and it was a great one from a Crimson Tide standpoint. Coach Gene Stallings 1992 Bama was a heavy underdog to Miami, featuring Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Gino Toretta. But the Tide had a defense, and Bama used it to overwhelm the Hurricanes, 34-13, completing a 13-0 season and bringing more national championship hardware to Tuscaloosa.

Now the ball is in the hands of Nick Saban. LSU has had great success in recent years, when Saban recruited and coached the Bengal Tigers to the national championship, then left the cupboard full for his successor to win a national championship.

That has Bama fans expecting Saban to add to the Alabama football tradition.

here's to all the people
who would rather pay the fare
than pay the price.



©2007 COORS BREWING COMPANY • BEER



Coors
BREWING COMPANY

A Canvas Classic



©2008 New Life Art, Inc.

Outside dimensions of frame approx. 29" x 34"

DANIEL A. MOORE

"THE CATCH"—A NEW CLASSIC ON CANVAS

"The Catch" has become another in a long line of masterworks by artist Daniel A. Moore. This expressive painting portrays one of the greatest individual performances in collegiate football history. Limited Edition Fine Art prints of "The Catch" were published in 2005 and quickly sold out. They now command prices on the secondary collectors' market of up to three times the original prices. New Life Art is pleased to announce the upcoming release of "The Catch" on canvas, each individually produced using the state-of-the-art giclée process. Each exquisite canvas will measure 20" x 25" and will be signed and numbered by the artist in oils, making each piece unique. Framing is available (similar to above) for an additional \$375.

TIME-LIMITED/PRE-PUBLICATION PRICING

The size of the Regular Edition will be limited according to the number of orders received by September 2, 2008 and will be categorized as "Sold Out by Publisher" upon release. The edition size for the Artist's Proofs is preset and strictly limited to only 50 canvases, which we anticipate will be sold out prior to publication. In keeping with the upward market trends of past sold-out Limited Editions by Daniel A. Moore, we have structured the Pre-Publication pricing for "The Catch" canvas on a graduated basis for a savings of up to \$500. The Regular Edition canvases are \$1,250 for orders received by June 30, \$1,500 by July 31, and \$1,750 by September 2. For Artist's Proofs pricing, add \$900 to each of the above prices.

TO ORDER, CALL TOLL FREE TODAY: 1-800-735-2787

Please reference the following item numbers: Regular Edition, CATC1; Artist's Proof, CATC3, Framing, FRC01.

Applicable taxes and shipping charges will be added to each order.